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Palestinians on alert

AMMAN (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has issued a statement warning of a possible escalation of violence following reports that Israeli forces had shelled a refugee camp in the West Bank. PLO spokesman Yasser Arafat, PLO Political Department head Fawzi Khatib, and PLO representative in Tunis, Helwan Salami, were at the top of the press conference. The statement said that the shelling was a "deliberate act of aggression" and that the PLO was "on high alert" in response. It also called for international condemnation of the attack.

5 killed on 'Soweto Day'

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Four black policemen and a black youth were killed in separate attacks on the 14th anniversary of student uprisings in the Soweto township. Authorities said the youth was fatally shot Saturday when police opened fire on a group of blacks stoning a police vehicle near Stibonela, about 160 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg. The youths were attending one of dozens of rallies held nationwide Saturday to commemorate the uprisings in the large black township outside Johannesburg. For the first time since the 1976 uprising, the government permitted anti-apartheid demonstrations on Soweto Day without major police intervention. Police did not say if the four killings of police officers were related to the Soweto Day activities. Tens of thousands of blacks commemorated the Soweto uprising Saturday by staging peaceful rallies. On June 16, 1976, police opened fire on black students in Soweto protesting the education policies of the white-led government.

Indonesian labour minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Indonesia's minister of labour arrived in Amman Sunday on a several-day official visit during which he will meet senior officials for talks on promoting bilateral cooperation in the fields of labour, social insurance and vocational training. The minister was received upon arrival by Minister of Tourism and Acting Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabarti, Minister of Labour Secretary General Saleh Al Khasawneh and senior officials. The visit of the Indonesian minister comes in response to an invitation extended by Minister of Labour Qasem Obaidat.

Israel halts oil tests amid problems

TEL AVIV (R) — A U.S.-based company said Sunday it had found oil off the Israeli coast but halted test production because of technical problems. The discovery was the first in Israeli waters in the Mediterranean. Isramco, operator of the drilling project YAM-2, said the find was encouraging but it was too early to say whether the oil would be profitable to pump. In a statement sent to the Tel Aviv stock exchange, it said it found light crude oil at a depth of 5,307 metres, flowing at a rate of 800 barrels per day. But it said it was halting tests due to problems resulting from heat and pressure at that level.

Mandela files to Canada

LONDON (R) — South African black leader Nelson Mandela flew to Canada, the next stop on his world tour, Sunday after an overnight stay in Britain to visit his friend, Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress (ANC). Speaking to reporters at London's Heathrow airport, Mandela, 71, dismissed suggestions his health was suffering as a result of his punishing tour schedule and said he felt fine.

Gorbachev to visit Japan next year

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Sunday that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will visit Japan early in 1991, and expressed hope the visit will be a turning point in bilateral relations. The visit would be the first to Japan by a Soviet leader, although four Japanese prime ministers have visited the Soviet Union. "According to a letter I received, President Gorbachev is to visit Japan early next year," Kaifu told a seminar sponsored by the governing Liberal Democratic Party. He did not give an exact date for the visit.

Iranian daily flays Turkey over Islam

NICOSIA (AP) — Tehran's radical Islamic daily Sunday castigated the Turkish press for publishing what it called "insulting articles" about the Islamic republic in a bid to stifle a Muslim revival. The official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted an Ahrar editorial as denouncing Turkish newspapers for publishing "obscene pictures... in a bid to pervert the public, young people in particular."

Belgium beats Uruguay; Spain overpowers S. Korea

ROME (R) — Ten-man Belgium joined the World Cup qualifying club on Sunday, the sixth side to reach the knockout stages. Eric Gerets was sent off but they reached the last 16 with a 3-1 triumph over rated Uruguay in Verona to head Group E with a maximum four points from two games. A Michel Platini-led Belgium beat the first of the finals, headed Spain victory over South Korea by the same score in another Group E match in Uffizi. But Spain must wait along with Uruguay for Thursday's final showdown. With only six teams definitely through — Brazil, Cameroon, Czechoslovakia, Italy and West Germany are the others — the fight is on to find 10 more in four days of football.

'I was called moderate, now I am described as an extremist, but I have always been realistic'

King: No compromise over Arab land under any circumstances

Not an iota of Arab soil or holy places will be given up
New Israeli government unprecedentedly worrisome

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday vowed that he would not compromise over any inch of Arab land or Arab rights under any circumstances even if Jordan was abandoned by the rest of the Arab World. In a satellite interview with United Arab Emirates (UAE) television and chief editors of Arabic-language newspapers of the UAE, the King described the new hardline government of Israel as "unprecedentedly worrisome" and said it heralded more suffering for the Palestinian people, who will be subjected to Israeli efforts to evict them from their land in a bid to change the situation on the ground.

"Jordan will have to counter this challenge with all its might and resources," the King said. Asked if he would enter direct negotiations with Israel if the rest of the Arab World did not rally behind Jordan and did not extend support to the Kingdom, the King said: "We pin great hopes on our brothers. Abandoning Jordan means abandoning Palestine... however, I will not compromise an iota of the Palestinian soil and I will not sell out Jerusalem or any other holy places under any circumstances. If Jordan is abandoned then we might all suffer the consequences because this implies the danger will be shifted to the whole Arab World."

The King said Israel views Jordan as part of the land which was planned to be turned into a homeland for the Jews, and that Israeli aggression was not only directed at Palestine or Jordan but also the entire Arab Order. "The challenges facing us pose a grave threat to the Arab Order," he said. His address to the Arab summit held in Baghdad last month, the King said, was meant "to alert the whole Arab Nation to the dangers inherent in Israel's expansionist policies and to call on the Arab Nation to shoulder its responsibilities in defending Arab national security which is now at stake."

He said the summit had "demonstrated good faith," and expressed hope that "the Arab countries move to the stage of pan-Arab collective action to fend off the dangers."

The King voiced appreciation to the Arab countries for their support of the Kingdom and the Palestinian people and expressed hope that such support would continue to enable Jordan to defend the region against Israeli aggression. "We are afraid that the Jews will enjoy the right to immigrate at the expense of the Palestinian people, who have been remaining steadfast on their homeland for 23 years in the face of continued Israeli threats and plans to evict them," he said. In reply to a question on possibilities of Israeli aggression and moves to revive the Eastern Front, the King said he did not rule out an Israeli attack on Jordan or any other Arab country. "Israel considers the presence of non-Jordanian forces in Jordanian soil as aggression against Israel," the King said. "Arabs should arm us with the means capable of enabling us to repulse the first blow until Arab brothers can reach us on our long confrontation line," he said.

Asked whether Jordan's economic problems were linked with the Kingdom's July 1988 decision to disengage itself from the West Bank, the King said the Jordanian move to sever legal and administrative links with the occupied territories was taken "in response to the will of the Palestinian people as voiced by their sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and the Arab World."



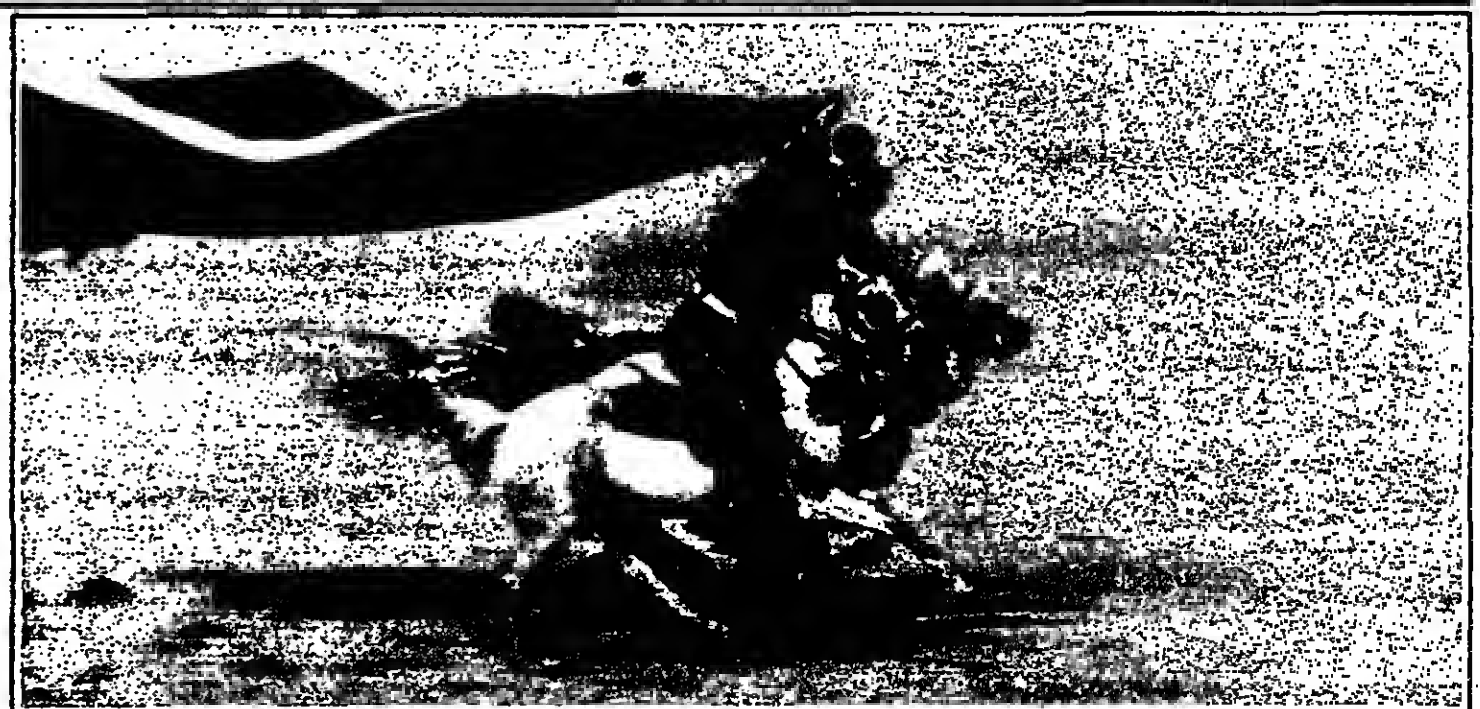
"The economic (problems) are the tax Jordan is paying for defending the Palestinian cause and the whole Arab Nation," he said noting that the failure on the part of Arab states to fulfil their financial obligations to Jordan as a frontline state under the 1978 Baghdad summit resolution was the reason behind the Kingdom's economic problems. "Jordan's current crisis is very heavy and it is felt by everyone in Jordan," he said. "We will do our utmost to overcome this problem by enhancing self-reliance."

Israelis cut off water supply to Jerusalem camp

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in a Jerusalem refugee camp who refuse to pay water bills said Sunday they feared outbreaks of disease after the city council reduced supplies to force payment. Shops and businesses throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were closed in response to a strike called by the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas, residents said. Transport was still running to let schoolchildren sit exams. Jemal Awad, 32, director of the Shufat refugee camp, told Reuters many homes in the camp were without running water following the council's reduction in supplies five days ago. "We will not pay one shekel to the Israeli occupation authorities," Awad said. "We have not paid for water since the camp was established in 1966. Why should we start now?"

He said Shufat had no money to pay even if it wanted to. The municipality took the step to force payment of 18 months in bills which the camp refuses to pay for political reasons. Children queued with buckets in summer heat Sunday at two communal taps. Camp residents said they had enough water only for drinking and could not flush toilets or wash regularly. "No one has fallen ill yet, but we fear it is only a matter of time," said Awad, who gave the camp's population as 8,000. A spokesman for the U.N. Palestinian relief agency said it was concerned about hygiene. Jerusalem municipality spokeswoman Bonnie Boxer said the city council had cut supplies by about half as a punitive measure after 18 months of fruitless negotiations on payment. Boxer said Israel's West Bank "civil administration" had paid Jerusalem for Shufat's water until January 1989 when it ceased to do so as a cost-cutting measure made necessary by the Palestinian uprising, now 30 months old. A leaflet issued by Hamas said Sunday's strike had been called to protest at the immigration to Israel of Soviet Jews "which is blessed by Moscow," to protest at Israel's continued killing of Arabs, and to mark the hanging of three Arabs by British mandate authorities in 1929. Palestinians said troops welded shut the doors of Sheikh Ejlin mosque in Gaza City Saturday night after accusing protesters of throwing stones from it and injuring an officer. An Israeli civilian patrol captured five Palestinians who planned to attack Israelis after entering central Israel from the West Bank, police said.

They said the civilians from Kibbutz Eyal, less than three kilometres from the West Bank town of Qalqilya, had been watching for crop saboteurs when they seized five on Thursday night. Members of kibbutz collective settlements along the West Bank have stepped up vigilance in recent months following increased raids by Palestinians to burn their crops and trees. Police said the Palestinians captured Thursday, aged 14 to 22, had been planning their raid for six months. They carried knapsacks, food, maps, knives and axes. Police said seven cars were set on fire in Jerusalem Saturday. Hundreds of vehicles have been torched in the city since the start of the uprising. Israeli military authorities Saturday reopened the nursing faculty of Al Quds University in Ramallah in the West Bank, one of six Palestinian universities shut by army order since the start of the uprising. Officials said they regarded the opening as a test case and would allow other campuses to reopen if there was no student unrest.



TURF FESTIVAL: Members of the Royal Guards Corps display their equestrian styles at a turf festival organised in Amman Sunday (see page 7)

Sharon, Eitan given say in Israeli military policy

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's right-wing cabinet Sunday gave former generals Ariel Sharon and Rafael Eitan their biggest say in military policy since both were reprimanded for their actions in the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacre. At its first meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet named former defence minister Sharon and Eitan, chief of staff during the Lebanon invasion, to the 11-man ministerial defence committee. Both Sharon and Eitan were blamed by an Israeli inquiry for not anticipating that Israel's militia allies would massacre hundreds of Palestinians if they were allowed to enter Beirut's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in 1982. Sharon, a leader in Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc, was also named chairman of a cabinet committee overseeing the immigration of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel. Sharon is a champion of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. News last week that he would lead the immigration drive raised fears that he would try to move Soviet Jews to the occupied territories, worsening already tense ties with the United States. U.S. policy considers the Jewish settlements obstacles to peace. Israeli officials insisted anew, meanwhile, that the new cabinet would work for peace with Palestinians and for a smoother relationship with the United States. The new defence committee named by the cabinet will be headed by Shamir, 74, a former agent of the Mossad secret service. The committee also includes such leading Likud figures as defence Minister Moshe Arens and Foreign Minister David Levy. Sharon, 62, was the chief architect of the Lebanon invasion. He was forced to step down as defence minister after the Sabra and Shatila massacre.

The motion was sent to committee for drafting before a formal vote, not expected until later this summer at the earliest. But its approval as an agenda item underlined the galloping pace of German unity less than a year after such a prospect appeared all but impossible. A two-thirds majority was required for steps affecting East German sovereignty, which will start fading away with economic union of the two states slated for July 1. Kohl attended the session after taking part in a joint sitting of the two German parliaments in a nearby theatre building that was held to mark a 1953 revolt against the former Communist dictatorship in East Germany. Under article 23 of West Germany's 1949 constitution, territories legally considered "part of Germany" can automatically merge with the Federal Republic through a simple parliamentary declaration. This in theory could include pre-World War II German provinces now part of Poland. But both German parliaments plan to recognise Poland's current frontier to ally Polish fears about German unification. Article 23 was a dead letter during more than 40 years of isolationist Communist rule in East Germany. But the picture changed radically after a "people power" revolution overthrew the Stalinist regime late last year. Kohl wants all-German elections sealing unification as early as the end of this year.

East Germany edges closer to reunification

EAST BERLIN (R) — The East German parliament took a step closer to German unity Sunday, voting in a special session to consider merging with West Germany under an accession clause of Bonn's constitution. With Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl watching from the gallery, parliament accepted a motion on an historic declaration of intent to accede to West Germany by 267 votes to 92 vote, with seven abstentions. The motion was sent to committee for drafting before a formal vote, not expected until later this summer at the earliest. But its approval as an agenda item underlined the galloping pace of German unity less than a year after such a prospect appeared all but impossible. A two-thirds majority was required for steps affecting East German sovereignty, which will start fading away with economic union of the two states slated for July 1. Kohl attended the session after taking part in a joint sitting of the two German parliaments in a nearby theatre building that was held to mark a 1953 revolt against the former Communist dictatorship in East Germany. Under article 23 of West Germany's 1949 constitution, territories legally considered "part of Germany" can automatically merge with the Federal Republic through a simple parliamentary declaration. This in theory could include pre-World War II German provinces now part of Poland. But both German parliaments plan to recognise Poland's current frontier to ally Polish fears about German unification. Article 23 was a dead letter during more than 40 years of isolationist Communist rule in East Germany. But the picture changed radically after a "people power" revolution overthrew the Stalinist regime late last year. Kohl wants all-German elections sealing unification as early as the end of this year.

Israeli leaders tight-lipped over new peace proposals

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli officials insisted on Sunday that a new, right-wing government would work for Middle East peace but declined to say what alternatives it would offer to a U.S. proposal for talks with Palestinians in Cairo. Cabinet ministers said after their first meeting that the government had not discussed new steps to quell the 30-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Cabinet secretary Eliyahu Rubinstein denied press reports he had effectively rejected U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's formula for the Cairo talks when he met Baker's aides last week in Washington. Still smarting from a public rebuke by Baker that the Shamir government was not serious about peace, the officials sought to downplay a U.S. proposal for the talks on preparing Israeli-sponsored Palestinian elections in the occupied territories. "The Baker proposal is really marginal in the context of the whole initiative," Health Minister Ehud Olmert, a close associate of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said after the government's first cabinet meeting. "Some of these procedures offered by Secretary Baker were not acceptable to the government, but we are prepared to examine other propositions in a spirit of cooperation with America, and I hope this will be done soon."

Israel's relations with Washington have been particularly strained since March when a coalition between Shamir's hawkish Likud Party and the more dovish Labour Party collapsed over the prime minister's refusal to accept Baker's formula. Cabinet ministers said they did not think the tensions had eroded the traditional bonds between the Jewish state and its guardian superpower and hoped Foreign Minister David Levy would visit Washington after recovering from a minor heart attack. Neither Olmert nor Avi Pazner, Shamir's media adviser, would comment on which alternatives Israel would consider or initiate to help bridge the gap. "We first have to renew our dialogue with the United States and to see where we stand," Pazner said. "We should be given some time to get ourselves organised."

Israeli media said Rubinstein told U.S. officials just after the new government took office last Monday that Israel would not allow the participation of Arab Jerusalem Palestinians or those who were expelled from the occupied territories in the preparatory talks, as demanded by Washington. But Rubinstein told reporters: "This was not even discussed. I read this morning a lot of newspaper reports of things that never happened."

Lithuanian parliament may reject moratorium

MOSCOW (R) — Lithuania's parliament will vote, possibly as early as Tuesday, on a proposal to break its deadlock with Moscow over independence, but a senior official in the rebel republic said Sunday it was likely to be rejected. Lithuania President Vytautas Landsbergis told Reuters Sunday the parliament would consider a moratorium on its March 11 independence declaration and he hoped the republic was on the verge of a compromise with the Kremlin. He said the parliament might take up as early as Tuesday a formula proposed by the Lithuanian government that it suspend the declaration for the duration of talks with Soviet leaders. The proposal was intended to defuse a conflict with Moscow, which refuses to recognise Lithuanian independence. But Algimantas Cekuolis, a member of the independent Lithuanian Communist Party's central committee, said he doubted parliament would approve it. "People are very suspicious of Moscow," he told Reuters. "This will be a difficult debate. It is more likely that the parliament will reject it."

The Lithuanian government Saturday said the parliament should "debate the possibility of declaring a temporary moratorium on the (independence) act for a period during negotiations" with Moscow. "The supreme council (parliament) may discuss this already on Tuesday, when it is next scheduled to meet," Landsbergis said by telephone from the Lithuanian capital Vilnius. Landsbergis stopped short of endorsing the proposal himself but said: "It is one of the possible formulas for discussion. We will discuss this formula and other formulas."

Asked whether Vilnius and Moscow could now find a compromise, Landsbergis, a leader of the Lithuanian nationalist movement Sajudis who has been a determined proponent of Lithuanian independence, said: "I hope so."

But he said it was still not clear whether Moscow would accept the step. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has called repeatedly for Lithuania to suspend its declaration of independence as a condition for talks with Moscow about the republic's future. To back up his demands, Moscow has clamped an economic blockade on the republic, cutting off its supplies of oil and gas, and sent a division of Soviet paratroopers to occupy key public buildings in Vilnius.

(Continued on page 5)

Everything is scarce in Sudanese refugee camps

AWEL, Sudan (AP) — Awel is a place where everything is in desperately short supply: food, money, medicine, hope.

Centre gives orphans tenuous grip on life

Relief workers call the two mud-and-grass huts a feeding centre, but for 150 Sudanese war orphans, the food supply is increasingly tenuous.

The children, whose parents and relatives were among hundreds of thousands of civilian victims of civil war and famine, live with other refugee women, children and old men at Awel, in the embattled Bahr Al Ghazal region of southern Sudan.

Each orphan has a tag attached to an arm or leg showing when he or she entered the centre and detailing his or her medical care. Each has been given a name, a nurse said, because "everybody has to have a name, you know."

All the children are members of the dominant southern Dinka tribe. They have nothing outside the feeding centre's two crude huts, and inside they sleep on the floor.

They are still getting food — cookies, high-protein gruel and milk provided by the Roman Catholic charity Sudanaid — and most are in relatively good health.

Considering the limited expectations of Awel's children, that makes the orphans of the feeding centre luckier than many of their famished playmates, at least for now.

The Rev. Akili Maweth, the local Catholic bishop, said the centre's food was being exhausted rapidly, and "after that, we will be at the mercy of the train."

As recently as December, 4,750 families waited in Awel's refugee camps — about 30,000 people driven into the town by a seemingly endless civil war. Since then, despair has driven most of them

back to the countryside, to the risk of death from war, lawlessness or famine.

Only a few hundred women, children and old men are in the camps now.

"Most of the families who left had been waiting for six to seven months for the relief train," said Mohammad Ali of the local relief committee.

"They saw no ray of hope so they moved out to the villages, where they might find something to eat."

There is food at Muglad, a relief-distribution centre 260 kilometres north of Awel at the northern terminus of a rail line. Goods shipped from Khartoum, the capital 725 kilometres to the northeast, are stockpiled there under Operation Lifeline-Sudan, a relief programme coordinated by the United Nations.

Operation Lifeline was created after the famine of 1988, which took between 250,000 and 500,000 lives and resulted from a civil war that has raged in the southern part of Africa's largest nation since 1983.

Rebels in the south, which is predominantly Christian and animist, demand greater autonomy from the Arab, Muslim north.

The relief project was credited with preventing a recurrence of the 1988 disaster last year, but getting supplies into the area has been difficult.

Trains often are weeks or months late in making the 260-kilometre journey from Muglad to Awel. Reasons range from the dilapidated track and the danger of land mines or attacks by rebels, renegade soldiers or bandits to bad weather, bureaucracy, inadequate equipment and the reluctance of crews to risk the trip.

At the end of May, a 150-car train with 1,500 tonnes of grain had been waiting at Muglad for six months.

"We have only 400 gallons

(1,500 litres) of edible oil and nothing else," said the Rev. Akili Maweth, the local Roman Catholic bishop. "Our stores are as empty as a hungry man's stomach."

Four trains have brought supplies to Awel since Operation Lifeline began in 1989. On the return trip north, each carried thousands of people trying to escape and survive.

"Those who could not move out of the town are the poor, the old, the tuberculosis victims and the children," said Mohammad Ali, who also is the local representative of the Sudanese Commission on Relief and Rehabilitation.

Nearly all those remaining are women, children and old men. They are housed in two makeshift camps, and few have money to buy anything.

One camp has nine large huts that accommodate 20 families each, and the other is in the town's school building. Alino Kolong, Awel's education commissioner, said those who lived in the school cleaned it each morning before classes began.

The women, and many of the children, try to find work. Refugee women till other people's gardens and carry firewood and water from the centre of town to outlying houses in Awel, which has a normal population of 11,000.

"Women here work in all sorts of jobs," said Majak Khawaja, a resident of the town. "Even building houses, which traditionally has been a man's job, is now being done by women."

Even if the refugee women can find work, they seldom make enough money to buy food.

A cup of tea costs 10 Sudanese pounds, nearly 85 cents, double the daily wage for the best-paying jobs available.

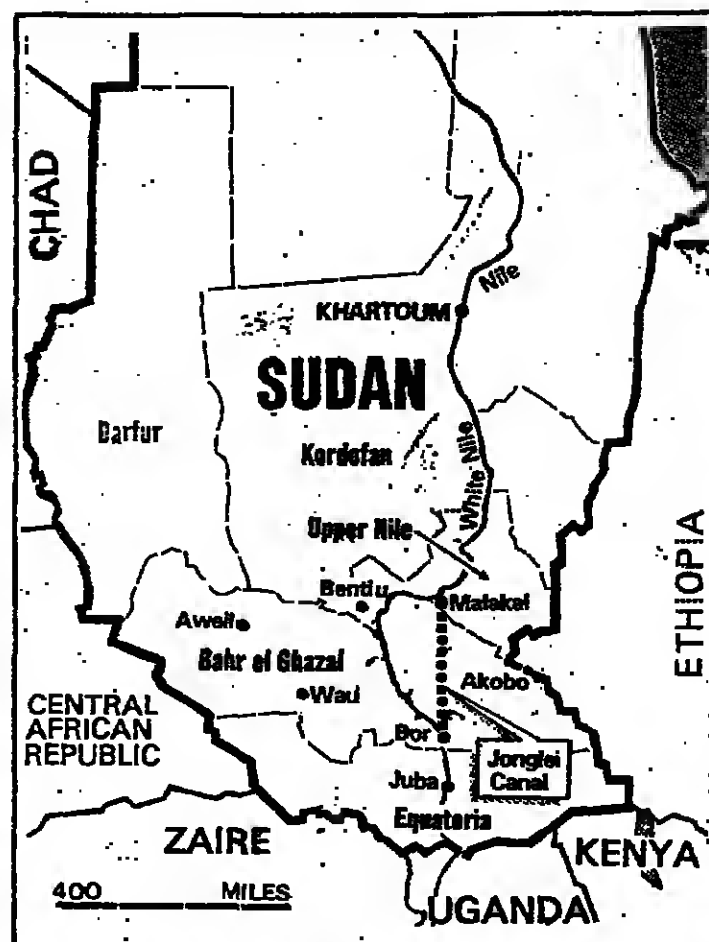
"They cannot afford to buy

one sack of sorghum at the unimaginable price of 900 pounds, or \$75, for the 80-pound (40-kilogramme) bag. Sorghum is the staple food in Sudan.

On a recent inspection tour, officials of the U.N. agencies running Operation Lifeline found the refugee families had no materials for cooking and were grinding peanuts in large bowls, making paste so the nuts would go farther.

"All the people here eat is peanuts," Mohammad Ali said. "It's not because they like them, it's because they're cheaper. The peanuts sell at one-third the price of sorghum."

Although the people of



Awel looked relatively healthy, relief officials said most had chronic tuberculosis or suffered from malaria or other water-borne diseases.

Awel's drugstore had been empty for months.

Dr. Samuel Deng, the area's only physician, said the medical charity Doctors Without Borders brought enough supplies for a year in February 1989, but no more had arrived since. The group left Sudan after some of its workers were killed.

"What medicine we have left cannot last for one week, let alone until supplies come, in no one knows how long," Deng said.

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Maronite patriarch asks Lebanese to give Vatican peace plan a chance

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Christian Maronite Patriarch appealed Sunday to the country's fighters to lay down their arms and give a Vatican peace plan a chance.

"We call today on all those carrying arms all over Lebanon to throw them aside and to resort to reason in response to peace efforts exerted by the Vatican," Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir told worshippers in Christian east Beirut.

Sfeir backed the Vatican plan to end inter-Christian strife and the 15 year civil war but official sources said it had failed. Fresh fighting was reported Sunday between rival Palestinian groups in a refugee camp in southern Lebanon.

The plan was presented to Lebanon's warring groups by Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente.

The sources said the Syrian-backed government of President Elias Hrawi had decided to reject the initiative and would inform Puente when they meet in mainly Muslim west Beirut Monday.

Puente announced a ceasefire on May 26 between rival Christian forces loyal to General Michel Aoun and Samir Geagea, leader of the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, hoping to end four months of fighting in which at least 1,080 people were killed.

But the ceasefire is breached every night along frontlines in the Christian enclave. People fear full-scale battles might flare again if a political solution is not reached soon.

The sources said the Vatican plan envisages Aoun and Geagea joining Hrawi's cabinet which would reconvene an Arab-brokered peace accord and revise

proposed political reforms.

Hrawi, a Christian, and many Muslims in his government oppose any modification of the Arab peace pact which gives Muslims a greater say in Lebanon's previously Christian-dominated political system.

But many Muslim leaders have criticised the Arab pact for failing to eliminate the sectarian-based system completely.

Shi'ite Muslim leader Nabih Berri, a minister in Hrawi's cabinet, said Aoun or one of his representatives should join the government and fight the Arab accord from within the cabinet.

Aoun rejected the Arab agreement and refuses to recognise Hrawi. Geagea recognises Hrawi but says some aspects of the Arab peace accord should be renegotiated.

Sharaa returns from talks in Turkey

DAMASCUS (R) — Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa returned Saturday night from talks in Turkey on border security and the waters of the Euphrates River.

The official Syrian News Agency (SANA) said Sharaa "stressed the need for reaching an agreement as soon as possible to guarantee a fair sharing of the Euphrates waters among Syria, Turkey and Iraq."

The Syrian minister spent three days in Turkey but Turkish officials reported no breakthrough on the main issues straining relations.

Turkey wanted to talk mainly

about Kurdish guerrilla activity along the border. Officials in Ankara said substantive discussion of the Euphrates, the topic of greatest concern to the Syrians, would wait for other meetings.

A big new dam in Turkey cut the flow of the Euphrates for a month in January and February — a one-time measure to raise the reservoir to the spillways. Syria said the interruption caused big losses of agricultural and electricity production.

SANA said Turkish President Turgut Ozal told Sharaa Friday of "the sincere desire and the political will of the Turkish govern-

ment to settle the water issue."

Ozal promised that Turkey would continue to provide Syria with waterfalls agreed in 1987 and "concluded by saying there will be no other cut in the waters of the Euphrates River in the future," the agency reported.

Sharaa stressed in Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer that a fair sharing of the waters would "help promote relations between Syria and Turkey and achieve stability in the region."

SANA did not mention border security although Turkish officials said Kurdish guerrilla raids were also raised during Sharaa's talks.

Iraq calls U.S. criticism 'unjust'

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Iraqi government Sunday branded criticism of its arms programme by U.S. President George Bush's administration as "unjust and biased" and said Iraq has the right to defend itself.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Nizar Hamdoun as saying that the United States does not want Iraq and the Arabs to "live in dignity and security and defend their rights and security."

Hamdoun's comments underlined a recent deterioration in relations between Iraq and the United States, mirroring a wider

chill between much of the Arab World and Washington for its support of Israel.

Hamdoun was commenting on a statement by John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs, who said Friday that Iraq was on a collision course with the United States and the West over its drive to develop nuclear and chemical weapons.

"Kelly was testifying before the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee in Washington."

The Bush administration is under growing congressional pressure to impose sanctions on President Saddam Hussein's gov-

ernment in Baghdad because of alleged human rights violations and its buildup of long-range missiles, chemical weapons and other advanced military systems.

"This claim is unjust and biased against Iraq,"

He did not deny that Iraq is developing nuclear weapons, but said Kelly made his comments because "Iraq is committed to its rights and those of the Arab Nation for life, security and stability."

"Iraq and the Arab Nation have chosen the path of security and stability... but they also choose the path of dignity."

Fighting flares between Abu Nidal supporters, adversaries in Rashidiyeh

TYRE (AP) — Fighting flared Sunday in the Rashidiyeh refugee camp between rival wings of a breakaway Palestinian guerrilla group led by Abu Nidal.

Police said at least four people were killed and 15 wounded.

Police and Palestinian sources said Abu Nidal's supporters and opponents within his Fateh-Revolutionary Council (FRC) fought in the narrow alleyways of the shantytown, using mortars, machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

The fighting broke out at midnight (2100 GMT). It continued unabated until 9 a.m. (0600 GMT), when the guerrillas of Yasser Arafat's mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation intervened.

Rashidiyeh, 80 kilometres south of Beirut, houses 18,500 Palestinians registered by United

Nations Relief and Works Agency, plus a few thousand unregistered refugees.

The sources, insisting on anonymity, said Abu Nidal's opponents, backed by fighters of the PLO's largest faction, Fateh, occupied a school, run by UNRWA, which cares for Palestinian refugees.

The three-storey building overlooks the main position of Abu Nidal's loyalists.

The opponents demanded that his supporters surrender or risk being dislodged by force, the sources said.

Forty men surrendered after the mediation of representatives of other PLO groups. The Fateh-Revolutionary Council is outside the PLO, which comprises nine factions.

The fighting was sparked by

the killing in Rashidiyeh Saturday of Omar Hamadeh, regional commander of the Fateh-Revolutionary Council. His bodyguard, Mohammad Meri, was wounded.

The showdown was the bloodiest in Lebanon since the mating in the Fateh-Revolutionary Council began three years ago.

Opponents and PLO officials have said that in 1987, shortly after moving headquarters from Syria, Abu Nidal gunned down at his base in Libya 22 close aides.

The killings followed a meeting of the group's ruling politburo and guerrilla commanders.

About 300 of his group fled from Libya to Algeria, forming an opposition group led by Abdul Rahman Issa, a member of the politburo, and Atef Abu Bakr, who was the group's spokesman.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Sudan claims 3 victories over rebels

KHARTOUM (AP) — The military government Sunday said it killed large numbers of rebels in three victorious battles in South Sudan. A statement by the Armed Forces General Command said "great numbers" of rebels were killed when government troops overran a camp of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army in the southern Bahr Al Ghazal region. The statement said the battle took place in Fayang area near Bentiu, 760 kilometres south west of the capital Khartoum. It said 39 army troops were killed in the battle. It also said large amounts of weapons and ammunition were seized. The General Command statement also reported two battles in the southern Upper Nile region. It said it destroyed a rebel camp, inflicting "heavy losses" on the insurgents. The other incident took place when rebels ambushed an army unit in the same region. The army forces launched a successful counter-attack.

Djibouti condemns defection of diplomats

DIJIBOUTI (R) — Djibouti denounced Sunday the defection of two of its diplomats in Washington, saying in a statement that the two had no substance as they had ignored orders to return home for investigation of disciplinary charges. Counsellor Ali Dahan and Abdul Karim Ali Amarak, financial attaché, said Friday they had asked for asylum in Canada and France because of what they described as official corruption and human rights abuses in their country. They said they would work with the opposition to overthrow the government of the East African nation.

Nathan marks 17th year of peace ship

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Abie Nathan, who has travelled the world to talk peace with Arab leaders and has been jailed for it, celebrated the 17th anniversary of his floating radio station the Voice of Peace Sunday. "When I look back I am amazed at how I survived and how the ship has survived for so many years at sea," Nathan, 63, told Israel Radio. "In 1973 I said I would not leave the ship until there was peace." Nathan was released from jail in February after serving four months for meeting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. Israeli law prohibits contact with the PLO. The popular station broadcasts music and the message of peace to the Middle East from an old ship anchored off the coast of Tel Aviv. Israel has repeatedly denied Nathan, born in Iran and raised in India, a licence to set up the station on land.

Syria, Britain 'discuss ties'

LONDON (R) — Syrian and British officials have met secretly in New York to discuss possible restoration of diplomatic ties cut more than three years ago after London accused Damascus of links with terrorists, a leading Arab newspaper said Sunday. The London-based Asharq Al Awsat said in a front page report the meeting would prepare for talks at a higher level in a bid to improve relations. Britain cut ties with Syria in 1986 after accusing Damascus of involvement in an attempt to blow up an Israeli airliner in London. The newspaper said British overtures towards Damascus were linked to London's awareness of Syria's role in the recent release of an American hostage held by pro-Iranian kidnappers in Lebanon.

Tunisian Islamic weekly seized

TUNIS (R) — The authorities seized the latest issue of the Tunisian Islamic fundamentalist weekly Al Fajr (Dawn) because it contained an article considered subversive, its editor Habib Jellal said Sunday. He said he was also told by the Interior Ministry that the article labelled President Zayn al-Abidin Ibn Ali Jellal said Reuters the article was written by Rached Ghannouchi, leader of the Tunisian fundamentalist movement Nahdha. The movement is not officially authorised and Ghannouchi lives abroad. It was the first time Al Fajr was seized since it was launched on April 23.

Yemeni government seeks confidence vote

SANAA (R) — The government of the three-week-old Yemeni Republic outlined its policies to parliament Saturday, seeking its first vote of confidence. Prime Minister, Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas read a policy statement to the legislature. Radio Sanaa said a committee was formed to study the programme before a vote Tuesday. North Yemen and South Yemen merged on May 22. Attas is a southerner. The president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, is a northerner.

Iranian-based Afghan rebels unite

NICOSIA (AP) — A nine-party coalition of Shi'ite Muslim Afghan rebels based in Iran have united in the Islamic Unity Party, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported Saturday. The official Iranian agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the unity meeting was also attended by representatives of the Sunni Muslim Afghan rebel groups which are based in Peshawar, Pakistan. But it gave no names of the Pakistan groups or representatives present. Hojatoleslam Hussein Ibrahim, representative of Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, told the Afghan rebel leaders, "I hope that the formation of the party will help unification of all the Shi'ite and Sunni forces in Afghanistan," IRNA said. A spokesman for the new party, Abdul Ali Mazari, was quoted as asking the Islamic Republic of Iran for continued support against the government in Kabul.

Omani minister visits Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Oman's Post and Telecommunications Minister Ahmad Ibn Suwaidan Al Balushi flew to Tehran Sunday, the official Omani News Agency reported. He was invited by his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Ghazari, to discuss ways for future cooperation and coordination in services, the agency, monitored in Cyprus, said.

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CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweith
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Assumption of God Church, Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation, Tel.
627480
De la Salle Church, Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church, Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation, Tel.
623541
Assumption Church, Tel. 623383, Tel.
628543
Armenian Catholic Church, Tel.
771331
Armenian Orthodox Church, Tel.
773261
Syrian Orthodox Church, Tel. 771213
Assumption International Church, Tel.
683226
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tel.
811205
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints, Tel. 815077, 653252

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
16:00 News summary
16:05 Local programme
16:10 Programme review
16:15 News in Arabic
16:20 Arabic series
16:25 Programme review
16:30 Local programmes
16:35 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:10 Documentary
18:15 News in French
18:20 Weekly Sport magazine
18:25 News in Hebrew
18:30 Various
18:35 Perfect Strangers
18:40 Blind Faith
18:45 News in English
18:50 World Cup: Argentina vs.
Romania

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

A drop in temperature will occur
and winds will be northerly with rain
or drizzle to follow. In Amman, it will be
dry with northerly fresh wind and
calm sea.

Min./Max. temp.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 16 / 30
Aqaba 22 / 38
Dhahran 16 / 34
Jordan Valley 21 / 39

Yesterday's high temperature: Am-
man 33, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings:
Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 20 per
cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE
NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fathi Al Bishri 625778
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shair 791405
Dr. Muhammad Al Ajam 894184
Dr. Bahjat Badr 449362
First pharmacy 651912
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Aserna pharmacy 637053
Nairoukh pharmacy 623972
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 648445
Shamsiah pharmacy 637650

IRBID:
Dr. Shihda Al Zogh (—)
Al Shams' pharmacy 983238

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'd (—)
Khatibah pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Response 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621,111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896370
Public Security Department 630321
Police Complaints 608900
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
Directorate assistance 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815165
Electric Power
Company 636361
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queens Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre \$1381/32
Khatibah Maternity, J. Amn. 644261/6

Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsiah 641714
Shamsiah Hospital 699131
University Hospital 645845
Al-Mushter Hospital 6672219
The Islamic, Amman 6612737
Al-Ahli, Amman 641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Arney, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 60240030
Amn Hospital 614135
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983232
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Bin Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)775535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Jbe Al Nafes Hospital (02)347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
09:30 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)

16:00 Damascus (RJ)
16:20 Dhahran (RJ)
16:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:30 Palermo, Shamsiah (RJ)
16:30 Larissa (RJ)
16:30 Senas, Jeddah (RJ)
16:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:45 Cairo (RJ)
16:45 Casablanca (RJ)
16:45 Doha (add.) (RJ)
16:45 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
16:45 London (RJ)
16:45 Athens (RJ)
16:45 Beirut (RJ)
16:45 Doha (add.) (RJ)
16:45 Colombo, Bangkok (RJ)
16:45 Tunis (add.) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Jeddah (add.) (SV)
09:30 Baghdad (add.) (SV)
09:30 Senas (LH)
11:00 Budapest (add.) (SV)
11:00 Cairo (LH)
11:00 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
11:00 Baghdad (add.) (IA)
11:00 Baghdad (add.) (IA)
11:00 Paris (AF)
11:00 Kuwait (add.) (KU)
11:00 Kuwait (add.) (KU)
11:00 Riyadh (add.) (SA)
11:00 Baghdad (add.) (AF)
11:00 Baghdad (add.) (AF)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

11:00 Tunis (add.) (RJ)
11:30 Doha (add.) (RJ)
11:30 Abu Dhabi (add.) (RJ)
11:30 Cairo (RJ)
11:30 Dubai (add.) (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York, Mon-
trreal (RJ)
12:45 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
13:15 Frankfurt (RJ)
17:15 Aqaba (RJ)
18:45 Tunis (add.) (RJ)
20:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:15 Beirut (RJ)
21:20 Cairo (RJ)
21:45 Dubai, Moscow (RJ)
22:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:30 Kuwait (RJ)
22:30 Jeddah (RJ)
22:30 Jeddah (add.) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Beirut (MG)
09:30 Riyadh (add.) (SV)
11:00 Al Qasim (add.) (SV)
11:00 Baghdad (IA)
11:00 Frankfurt (LH)
11:00 Budapest (RP)
14:05 Cairo (MS)
14:00 Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
14:30 Kuwait (add.) (KU)
14:30 Riyadh (add.) (SA)
14:30 Baghdad (add.) (AF)
14:30 Kuwait (add.) (AF)

26:15 Kuwait (KU)
61:25 Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upchower price in \$/kg
Apricots 950 / 850
Apples 1100 / 900
Banana 450 / 400
Banana (Makassar) 450 / 400
Beans 420 / 380
Carrot 120 / 80
Cauliflower 200 / 160
Corn 250 / 200
Couscous (large) 100 / 80
Couscous (small) 120 / 100
Dates 400 / 380
Eggplant 240 / 200
Garlic 1100 / 900
Grapes 400 / 380
Lemon 400 / 380
Mallow 90 / 40
Marrow (large) 80 / 40
Marrow (small) 180 / 120
Onion (dry) 180 / 120
Onion (green) 200 / 150
Orange 300 / 250
Peas 300 / 250
Pepper (hot) 350 / 300
Pepper (sweet) 300 / 250
Potato 300 / 250
Sage 150 / 100
Sweet maize 200 / 240
Tomatoes 140 / 100
Watermelon 130 / 90

97 per cent of Jordan's population have electricity

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Taher Al Taher said Sunday that electricity produced in Jordan reaches more than 97 per cent of the population and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), which is in charge of power generation and distribution, has been seeking to modernise the distribution system all the time.

At the same time JEA maintains a process of constant training personnel and technicians for energy-related operations and has been pursuing cooperation in power-related matters with all neighbouring Arab countries, the minister said in an address at the opening of a meeting here by ministers responsible for energy and electricity in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries.

Jordan, the minister said, believes in joint Arab cooperation in the exploitation of all forms of energy including oil, shale, wind and solar power as basic elements in the drive to bring about inter-Arab economic cooperation.

The ministers will review questions related to energy in the four

Qasem briefs House panel on Middle East situation

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem delivered a statement to the foreign affairs committee of the Lower House of Parliament, in which he reviewed the series of recent events in the Middle East region.

The committee discussed with the minister all these issues and was briefed on the government's constant efforts, in cooperation with the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries and Arab states, to face the threats posed to the Arab Nation, Masri pointed out.

He said that the discussions showed an identity of views between the government and the House committee, concerning the source of danger posed to the Arab Nation and means of confronting it.

Meanwhile, the House's education committee held a meeting Sunday and discussed an amendment to the Jordanian universities law. The committee will continue its debate Monday in a joint session with the House's legal committee.

King meets heads of ACC news agencies

Jordan urges Arab media to counter information assault

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the chairman of the Higher Committee for the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Sunday called on the Arab media to play a major role in countering the fierce information attack against the whole Arab Nation.

In a meeting with directors of the national news agencies in Jordan, Iraq, Yemen and Egypt, who concluded their two-day meetings Sunday, the King called for intensive efforts to advance information work to cope with the aspirations of the Arab Nation.

The King voiced his full support for the decisions adopted at the end of their second meeting. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, and Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin. The information minister also received the news agencies directors and discussed with them the outcome of their meetings.

Izzeddin stressed the need for finding a suitable mechanism to transmit the Arab World news to the world. He pointed out that the use of modern technology in transmitting and receiving news was not enough since such news needed to receive proper professional handling.

At the end of their two-day meetings, the ACC national news agencies announced several measures designed to promote coordination and cooperation.

One of the decisions concerns the allocation of \$40,000 annually to be distributed in four \$1,000 prizes to journalists from Egypt, Jordan, Yemen and Iraq for presenting the best coverage of news, reports and analyses of events concerning ACC member states. The news agencies endorsed a proposal of employing satellites to transmit news materials and other programmes.

They backed a recommendation by ACC ministers of information who called for the establishment of a data bank to provide information to all news information agencies and the media in the four countries.

According to the recommendations, any ACC country hosting the ACC's higher council meetings should provide facilities for the information and press delegations from the other three countries and should shoulder the financial burdens and the cost of sending news, photographs and reports about the meetings.

They decided to regard any ACC reporter or news office working abroad as serving the four countries, and that reports by ACC media teams should be given priority over other sources.

The directors of the ACC news agencies voiced total satisfaction with the joint news transmission which is sent out from Amman on a daily basis and said that the transmission should be developed and the joint bulletins transmitted on holidays and Fridays as well as the other days of the week.

The joint bulletin, known under the name of the Arab Cooperation Pool (ACP), started in January 1990.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Queen receives Italian media group

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday received at Al Ma'wa palace a group of 30 Italian journalists and RAI TV personnel currently on a visit to Jordan. Present at the meeting was Abdul Kareem Al Kabarti, minister of tourism.

Arab drug industry to hold symposium

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day symposium on pan-Arab drug industry, organised by the Arab Union of Producers of Drugs, will be held here Monday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The symposium will discuss 12 working papers.

35 get hearing aids in Maan

MAAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, the honorary president of Queen Alia Centre for Hearing Impaired, Sunday distributed hearing aids to 35 patients in Maan governorate. A medical team from the centre examined 86 hearing impaired persons, in cooperation with the Princess Basma Centre for Social Services.

Women's society established in Karak

KARAK (Petra) — The Jordan Cooperative Society (JCS) approved Sunday the establishment of a women's cooperative society in Karak to be called the Women of Karak Cooperative Society. JCS director in Karak governorate Firas Al Rabadi said the society aims at improving the status of women in Karak governorate in economic and social fields through teaching them different skills. In a meeting held Sunday, the founding committee of the society elected Na'ayem Al Majali as chairperson for the society, Ir'am Al Majali as secretary and Huda Al Sa'oub as treasurer.

Jordan, Oman to cooperate in education

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra Sunday discussed with visiting Omani Dean of the Faculty of Education and Islamic Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University Muhammad Al Shabini scopes of bilateral cooperation in the educational and scientific fields.

Samra attends graduation ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra Sunday attended the graduation of students from the faculties of science and agriculture and presented certificates to the graduates. The graduation ceremony was attended by several senior military and civil officials, in addition to members of the diplomatic corps in Amman.

Red Crescent societies to cooperate

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society Ibrahim Al Nouri will arrive in Amman Monday on a several-day visit to the Kingdom. Nouri will hold talks with Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) President Ahmad Abu Qoura on forming a coordination committee for the Red Crescent Society in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and on issues of common interest to Jordan and Iraq.

Manuscripts to be preserved

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research — Al Al Bait Foundation — in cooperation with Al Furqan Islamic Foundation, will monitor and document all Islamic and Arab manuscripts in Jordan. This work comes within the framework of a project launched by Al Furqan Foundation to monitor and document all Arab and Islamic manuscripts all over the world. Al Al Bait Foundation has started calling on local cultural institutions which collect and keep documents.

UNESCO organises workshop

AMMAN (Petra) — A 10-day regional workshop on the use of audio-visual technologies in the field of demographic education will be held here Sunday with participation from 7 Arab countries, including Jordan, attending. The workshop, organised by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Regional Office for Education in the Arab states, aims at training participants to identify the concept of communication, its elements and objectives, and to produce audio-visual material.

WFP official arrives in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive director of the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP), James C. Ingram arrived in Amman Sunday via Ramtha on a four-day official visit to the Kingdom during which he will meet senior government officials and visit some projects financed by the WFP.

These projects include the highland agricultural regions development project (1990-1995), primary schools, literacy and social development centres and kindergartens in the rural areas project (1990-1994) and the range land and red meat development project (1986-1991).

Ingram will discuss with Jordanian officials financing future projects and signing an agreement to extend the period assigned for the highland development project with an estimated value of \$26 million.

Pilgrims start to leave today

AMMAN (Petra) — Muslims making this year's pilgrimage to the holy places in Saudi Arabia will start leaving Jordan Monday evening. Reports in the local press said that a ceremony will be held at Marj Al Hamam district, west of here, on Tuesday, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, to pay farewell to the pilgrims making the trip to Medina and Mecca over land.

Pilgrims from the occupied Arab territories will arrive at the pilgrims camp in the Jordan Valley Monday in preparation for their trip to Saudi Arabia, the report said.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, which organises pilgrimage affairs, has made arrangements for the transportation of pilgrims and their accommodation in Medina and Mecca. The ministry has also made arrangements for the Turkish and Arab pilgrims travelling through Jordan to stay at special camps near Ramtha and Maan.

Last year a total of 15,000 pilgrims from Jordan and the occupied Arab territories made the pilgrimage to Mecca.

The ministry Sunday announced the departure of a health mission, comprising 12 physicians and male nurses with medical supplies, to offer first aid services to the pilgrims during the pilgrimage.

Merchants protest outdoor markets

AMMAN (J.T.) — The outdoor market, which is held in at least four different areas of Amman every week, is depriving stores, shops, supermarkets, and food supply shops of income by absorbing all potential buyers, according to a signed petition sent to a local Arabic daily newspaper published Sunday.

Al Dustour daily published the petition with tens of signatures of merchants from Marka area, complaining that they were being deprived of their livelihood because of the presence of these open air markets, and that at least 30 per cent of the merchants have been driven out of business and were forced to close their stores.

The statement said that the merchants lost nearly 80 per cent of their sales because the outdoor market attracts buyers who benefit from reduced prices.

The petition said that the vendors in the outdoor market do not pay any rent nor do they have overhead expenses; they do not pay for electricity and other services, they do not pay taxes to the municipality and for this reason the petition called on the concerned authorities to put an end to the outdoor markets in Amman, which draw supplies directly from the factories, and wholesale merchants, thus depriving the retailers of their livelihood.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Sharan, Mohammad Ahmad and Hani Khaz'leh at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- Exhibition entitled "La révolution 200 ans après" at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of Ottoman textiles at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- Exhibition of orientalist paintings by two German orientalist artists at the Goethe Institute — open 9-12 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.

LECTURE

- Lecture entitled "Monothéisme: Christian theological disputes and the Muslim conquest of Syria and Palestine" by Dr. Robert Schick at the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) — 7:30 p.m.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171/6



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DUBAI	572850	MANAMA	183859	CAIRO	3557351
ABU DHABI	321650	Doha	43282	NICOSIA	464918

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Jordan Times

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WEEKLY POLITICAL PULSE

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

Go nuclear — that's an Arab option

THERE WAS a time when the Arab countries could count on the Soviet nuclear umbrella to protect themselves against any Israeli nuclear weapon threat or use. Those days are gone never to return as far as one can see. The new vacuum created by the effective elimination of the Soviet protection of at least Moscow's traditional allies, leaves the Arab World with no alternative now but to seek nuclear capability. It would be utterly irresponsible of the present generation of Arab leadership to forsake this national decision or to put it off for much longer. This proposition is indeed ominous and one would have preferred that it would not have to be taken. But Israel's introduction of nuclear weapons to the region has put the entire Arab World at its mercy and there is no realistic way to neutralise this Israeli blackmail except through the acquisition of similar weapons by at least some of the Arab countries in the region. In this vein, the Arab governments must pursue this objective with all candour and openness. Above all, the Arab World need not be apologetic for adopting such an option. With the advent of a new era in the international arena where superpower rapprochement has become the order of the day, the Arab World is dutybound to develop military and security strategies that are based on self-reliance.

It is clear by now that the Arabs have lost a great deal of leverage against Israel when Moscow realigned its priorities and placed its relation with the Arab side on the bottom of its list of priorities.

The immediate aftermath of this new realignment is to render any outbreak of a major conflagration in the Middle East as strictly a regional one with little or no risk of developing into a global one. The Arab capitals would be derelict in their national duties if they keep their eyes shut to the new realities and threats developing all around them and persist in pretending that the situation is not as bad as it looks. The continuation of this ostracism policy in the face of imminent danger to the very survival of the Arab Nation would obviously be reckless.

After achieving some nuclear parity with Israel, the scene would be set for a regional security arrangement that would include all the countries of the area. Any such security arrangement must of course envisage the resolution of all the dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflicts, including the Palestinian conflict, the water resources and boundaries. To be pragmatic about it, there is no effective way to resolve the whole range of conflicts between Israel and the Arab Nation without or prior to the acquisition of a nuclear weapon parity between the two sides. Just as the introduction of nuclear weapons to the European theatre has been credited with the achievement of peace between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, neutralising the Israeli nuclear arsenal can attain the same objective.

Accordingly, it would be prudent and timely if a special Arab summit be organised and convened for this very purpose. Such a

very level of consultation and deliberation would of course solicit condemnation of Israel which will not hide its intentions to nip in the bud any Arab plan to go nuclear. Yet the risks have to be calculated and taken as part of the game. The existing Arab arsenal is of sufficient strength to thwart any reckless interference in the Arabs' programme to develop their own nuclear capability. Iraq's current military posture is of sufficient capability to make Israel think twice before it strikes against any Arab nuclear facility.

Concurrently with this declared Arab policy to go nuclear, there is a need for a parallel Arab assurance that they will never make the first nuclear strike against Israel. This should take the form of a solemn declaration that should be binding on all the Arab countries that join in the campaign to acquire a nuclear weapon capability. Likewise the Arab World should reiterate its quest for a just and lasting peace with Israel on the basis of international norms and standards. If Israel chooses to shun Arab overtures for peace for much longer, it will bear the consequences of any further deterioration in the situation in the region. For both Arab and Israelis, not only their future hangs in the balance but also their very survival. The decisions awaiting to be taken by both sides are indeed civilisational in character and magnitude. Just maybe the threat of a nuclear war in the region would put some sense into those who cannot see beyond their noses.

Dichotomy of change

AMMAN WAS gripped by more than talk about the football match between Egypt and Ireland yesterday. Word spread quickly that a government reshuffle was imminent and about to be announced either last night or today. The reshuffle was said to be limited to a few portfolios. A new planning minister would be appointed to replace Mr. Awni Masri, who has expressed his explicit wish to leave the government for personal, mainly job-related, reasons. The transport and supply ministers would exchange jobs. And the information minister would leave his ministry to go back to his old job as minister of state at the Prime Ministry.

Since the reshuffle did not take place last night, it is more than likely that it would happen today or very soon. In the meanwhile there were reports that the reshuffle was indeed imminent, but that its scope was actually different from what had been said earlier.

What the real situation is, we do not know for sure. What we do know is that it is up to the prime minister to do what he sees fit with the make-up of his government and to change the positions of his colleagues in a manner that would suit his style, thinking and policies.

There are, however, some facts and figures that must not escape our minds, or be ignored, when change is either considered or called for. The space for figures, on planning and transport and supply, is not here. Facts about the information policies of the Badran government, however, are all too obvious, too important and too positive to ignore. Let us just mention a few.

First, success of the government in tackling, living with, and nurturing Jordan's democratisation process has derived much of its strength from the open and objective information policy that it has pursued so far.

Second, steps taken to bring about independence of the Kingdom's official media outlets, and to attune them to the needs of the democratic experiment, have been largely successful and well received by the public at large.

Third, the credibility in the eyes of our people of the official media organs has been enhanced beyond recognition, setting the stage for a healthy political pluralism that all Jordanians aspire to.

Fourth, the dialogue that the government has started with privately-owned newspapers to improve their quality and strengthen their message as well as improve the lot of all Jordanian journalists is slowly but surely bearing fruit.

Fifth, the damage to Jordan's image abroad that was inflicted by the actions and mistakes at previous governments has largely been repaired, and the Kingdom now can take real comfort from the fact that it is today much less victimised and misunderstood than before.

Needless to say, what has been already achieved has not come out of a vacuum, nor can it be called the end of the road. But it is a story of success for the government that it, and all of us, should be proud of.

True, more is desired and more can and should be done. The question is, however, whether change is called for when we have put ourselves on the right track and established a framework in which we are only moving forward.

Again, it is the prime minister's prerogative and right to shuffle his cabinet the way he sees fit. Our sole concern is that positive change should be rewarded and consecrated, and that only where things are not going so well the necessary change should be made.

American aid to Israel: The facts

By Donald Neff

WHEN Republican Senate minority leader Bob Dole launched his unprecedented exposure on May 1 of the largely unknown depth and breadth of U.S. aid to Israel, he brought to public attention two recent studies of how Congress has fashioned these special deals over the years.

The reports were by Congressional Research Service (CRS), a small and respected unit set up by Congress to provide lawmakers with objective research on legislation. The reports go out of their way to be as objective as possible, since any deviation is certain to come under attack from congressmen of one political persuasion or another. The senior Middle East analyst for CRS is Clyde Mark, who has a reputation as knowledgeable researcher whose reports can be relied upon to be both accurate and non-partisan.

Both CRS reports introduced into the public realm by Dole were Mark's work. Neither indicates the identity of the congressmen who requested them, but it is clear from the question asked that they were by lawmakers wondering just how much the U.S. was giving to Israel and whether it was getting its money's worth; such as whether the U.S. should use its aid to pressure Israel for diplomatic concessions and whether Israel was missing U.S. aid.

The astonishing result, as revealed by Dole on the Senate floor, was that America's annual support of Israel amounts to nearer \$4 billion than \$3 billion, the figure usually cited by the media, Congress and Israel as representing the total of Israel's military and economic aid. The larger figure results from all the special deals Congress has passed to benefit Israel over the years, mainly while Henry Kissinger and George Shultz presided over U.S. policy in the 1970s and '80s.

The first CRS report: U.S. Laws that benefit Israel

The report lists 43 special laws that have been enacted solely to benefit Israel over the years, most at the cost of millions of dollars to the U.S. taxpayer, not to mention their effect on the international reputation of the U.S. resulting from its diplomatic support of Israel despite that country's parish position in the world community. The list is too long to recite, but a flavour of the startling lengths Congress has gone to aid Israel by special legislation can be gleaned from citing a few.

Cash transfer — which means Israel gets its \$1.2 billion in annual economic aid as grants that do not have to be repaid and without any accounting or oversight by the U.S. on how the money is used, contrary to standing practice earmarking aid funds to specific projects and demanding accountability. On top of that, Israel uniquely gets early transfer of its aid funds instead of having them spread out over four quarters of the year, the traditional form of

payment. The advantage of Israel is significant. As Mark pointed out: "...Israel invests the lump-sum payment in U.S. Treasury bonds to earn interest on the funds until they are used. In addition, if one assumes that the United States borrows funds for the lump-sum transfer, the early payment costs the United States between \$40 and \$60 million per year in interest." In other words, the legislation allows Israel to invest U.S. aid money and earn interest on it while the U.S. has to borrow funds and pay interest in order to give them to Israel earlier than normal.

FMS for R&D and procurement in Israel — which means that part of the foreign military sales (FMS) aid given Israel — \$1.8 billion in grant annually since 1985 — may be spent in Israel instead of the U.S. Traditionally military aid is restricted for spending in the U.S. and not to be used for research and development. The prohibition against R&D is to prevent foreign governments using U.S. funds to develop weapons that would compete with U.S. firms. But for Israel these restrictions were waived, originally so it could develop its own fighter plane, the *Lavi*, in the early 1980s. Although that proved beyond Israel's technical capabilities, the waiver has nonetheless been allowed to stand. The result is that today Israel by law may use U.S. aid for R&D and up to \$400 million to buy arms within Israel, meaning U.S. manufacturers are denied those sales.

Supplemental assistance — which means special, congressionally authorised, additional aid packages to Israel beyond its regular annual packages of \$3 billion in economic and military aid. The supplemental assistance has included congressionally approved packages of \$2.2 billion in 1973, \$3 billion in 1979 and \$1.5 billion in 1985. The latest supplement is this year's \$400 million loan guarantee for housing Soviet immigrants.

Strategic Defence Initiative — under which Israel has been allowed to participate in basic research for the "Star Wars" programme begun by the Reagan administration. Israel is sharing research in the Arrow missile, an anti-tactical ballistic missile that is expected to cost \$600 million over three years. The U.S. is picking up 80 per cent of the cost, and in addition has allowed Israel to pay 10 per cent of its share with U.S. aid funds. Since there is no accounting at all of how Israel spends its economic aid from the U.S., there can be no assurance that all of its costs are not actually paid by U.S. funds.

Diplomatically, Congress has been no less active, bringing in a series of laws to aid Israel in its fight against the Palestine Liberation Organisation and in maintaining its presence in world bodies whose charters it violates. The special laws include a threat to reduce U.S. payments to the United Nations by the amount any U.N. funds are used to aid the PLO and a threat to quit the U.S. altogether if Israel is expelled from the world organisation.

The second CRS report

Israel: the facts of U.S. foreign assistance: The report begins on a

grim note for the U.S. taxpayer: "Israel is not economically self-sufficient and relies upon foreign assistance and borrowing to maintain its economy. For the past five years, the United States has provided \$3 billion in grants annually to Israel. Since 1976, Israel has been the largest annual recipient of U.S. foreign assistance, and is the largest cumulative recipient. In addition to U.S. assistance, Israel receives about \$1 billion annually through philanthropy, an equal amount through short and long-term loans, and about \$500 million or more in Israel Bonds proceeds," which are not taxed by the U.S.

The "key questions" the report addresses range from whether U.S. aid to Israel should be trimmed in order to provide funds to Eastern European nations to whether the U.S. should apply conditions to Israel's aid. Mark's handling of these hot political questions is less than forthright, which is no more than could be expected from a researcher whose job depends on the readers of his work. Thus he is reduced to merely reporting both sides of the question in most cases. Still, the very generosity with which he handles the subject indicates the sentiments prevailing in Congress. And despite all his diplomacy, there are certain questions where the mere listing of facts more than adequately shows Congress's excessive bias toward Israel.

This is especially true of such questions as whether "special treatment granted to Israel set precedents for other countries." To this loaded query, Mark responded simply by listing many of the special bits of legislation, mentioned in his first report above. Obviously if Israel is allowed, for instance, to receive all of its aid at the beginning of the year, then other countries will want to have the same advantage. No comment by Mark was necessary, nor did he add any.

Similarly, to the question of whether Israel has misused its aid, Mark noted without comment that "in 1978, 1979 and 1981, the executive branch notified Congress that Israel may have violated U.S.-Israel agreements by using U.S. weapons for non-defensive purposes, and in 1982 the United States suspended shipments of so-called cluster bombs after allegations that Israel violated an agreement on the use of the bombs... In 1982 testimony before Congress, executive branch officials said Israel transferred U.S. arms to Iran and the 'South Lebanese Army' without U.S. permission."

Even behind the cautious wording typical of the CRS, no taxpayer would have difficulty in seeing the reality: Congress has been excessive in its generosity to Israel, overly indulgent to it by passing special legislation benefitting only Israel, and extraordinarily tolerant of its violations of U.S. laws and interests. That is quite an indictment, the details of which had long remained shrouded to the general public until Bob Dole's introduction of these important reports into the Congressional Record — Middle East International.

LETTERS

Taxing travel?

To the Editor:

STATISTICS show that a lot of Jordanian people travel abroad. But are there any accurate statistics on how many Jordanians work outside the country and make a living? Do statistics show how many students study abroad? Do statistics show the percentage of affluent people? Or how many people travel abroad not for pleasure but out of sheer necessity?

These are the questions that one is reminded of after reading Dr. Fahed Fanek's suggestion (the Jordan Times, June 12) that the travel tax be raised or a daily fee of JD 10 per day per person who stays abroad on short trips.

People appreciate reasonable proposals that might help them to solve their problems but not outrageous proposals.

These days we deal a lot with computers, and we try to find solutions for our problems with a machine. Do machines take into consideration feelings, and understand human beings or circumstances and situations?

We are in need of joint efforts. Do we, therefore, need proposals like that of Dr. Fanek?

Some people travel for pleasure and are financially capable of doing so. But many Jordanians are already frustrated over the rising costs and impractical proposals such as Dr. Fanek's only fuel the fire.

There are more serious issues to be discussed and taken care of than proposals that can only divert attention from the pressing issues at hand.

Joumana Halasa
Amman

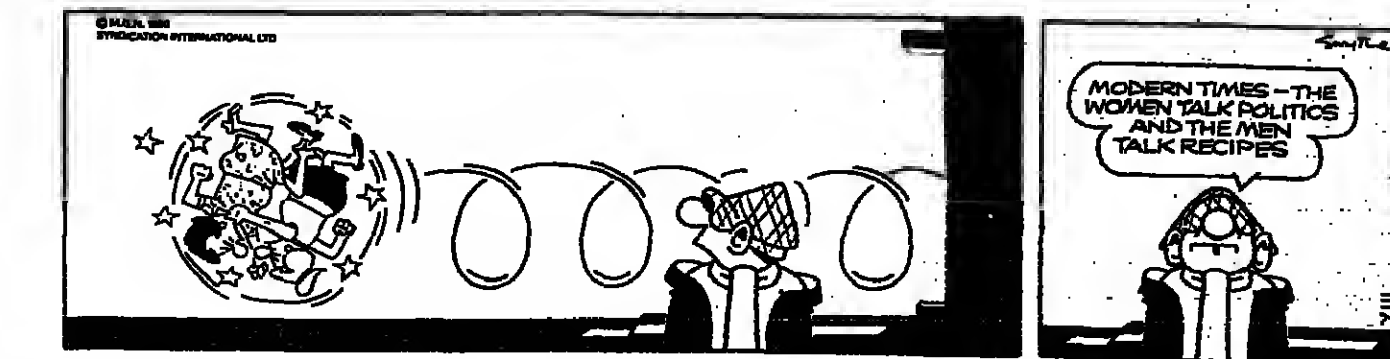
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JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN dailies Sunday strongly criticised the U.S. in the light of a statement by Defence Secretary Dick Cheney in pledging continued American supply of weapons to Israel while at the same time calling for peace talks with the Arabs. The supply of arms to the Jewish state represents a tool for destroying the peace which U.S. officials have been bragging about, said Al Rai. There is no doubt that the U.S. administration realises this fact, but the defence secretary chose to give this statement and to point out that Washington's military aid to Israel will next year account for 35 per cent of the total American aid to foreign countries, said the paper. Washington also realises that continued supply of weapons to Israel is bound to encourage it to pursue its dangerous adventures regardless of their consequences, the paper continued. It is clear, therefore, that the double talk of which Washington is a master is meant to draw peace away from and not closer to the Middle East, and current American policies are bound to expose the area to further dangers whose consequences are impossible to predict, the paper noted. What peace is the U.S. secretary talking about and how can the Arabs be convinced of Washington's views while it continues to help Israel build its formidable arsenal of weapons to be used against the Arabs? the paper asked.

A COLUMNIST in Al Rai praised parliament deputies for their courageous step of objectively and responsibly discussing the question of expatriates required to do national military service and the decision they reached about it. Tareq Masarweh said that Jordan was going through unusual difficult economic circumstances, requiring unusual measures and speedy action. The previous parliament did not even dare to debate the question for fear of being interpreted as harming the Jordanian Armed Forces, said the writer. But it was found now that leaving the conscription law as it is does not serve the Armed Forces nor does it do any good to the nation, he added. Leaving thousands of Jordanians stranded abroad because they are unwilling to come home for fear of having to do national service is not a comfortable situation for the expatriates and the home country alike, said the writer. He said that by paying badly needed foreign currency to their country the expatriates can benefit their nation on the one hand and can benefit from their work abroad on the other.

King

(Continued from page 1)

and "are willing to hear from us and to reconsider their policies in the region."

The King called for intense Arab efforts to convince Europe and the Soviet Union to assume a major role in efforts for peace in the Middle East. "We should also contact the United States and ask it to shoulder its moral responsibility towards achieving a just solution to the Middle East problem," he said. "It is high time the United States moved in this direction if it is serious about advancing the peace process."

In reply to a question on the proposed for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo asked by American Secretary of State James Baker and whether Washington was reassessing its attitude towards the Middle East question, the King said: "I believe the process was delayed when the whole world, with the exception possibly of the U.S. at that time, was moving towards an international peace conference. In fact, even the U.S. was suggesting that it might be the final and realistic venue to resolve the problem, with the participation of all parties concerned in the conflict, including the PLO.... then this approach was made that the gap between the Palestinians and the Israel was too vast and that was why not have a dialogue between them to get them to narrow this gap in preparation for the international conference" and then all the points and plans right now... we have nothing at all. So, in that sense the process was delayed and we are facing a very critical moment when the U.S. and hopefully the rest of the world need to reassess where we stand."

The King underlined the role of Britain in efforts for peace in the Middle East pointing out that it had very close links with the region and in light of its position within the European Community and its access to positively influence the U.S. "Hopefully, the results will be positive, and I believe that the government of the United Kingdom is aware of the realities in the area."

Moreover, the King pointed out, Europe's future is linked to the Middle East and "what happens here."

"Europe has a voice that hopefully will be heard and I hope Europe and the U.S. and the rest of the world can reassess and help," the King said.

"I have warned that there are extremists waiting, doing their utmost to destroy any chance for a better future in the area, and they are doing their best now to make the possibility of a peace process something of the past. This is what we see in regard to the recent declared policies of the new government in Israel," the King said.

"In view of my positions, I have been described recently as extremist although I was described as moderate in the past," the King said in reply to another question. "In fact, I have always been realistic and objective, and my positions have never been emotional."

Israel

(Continued from page 1)

pressed over how to renew high-level contacts with the U.S. administration. Rubinstein is understood to have told American Jewish leaders that Shamir wanted to move toward the point where things left off before his previous government fell three months ago. But he has stressed that it will take time and may require a new approach.

Other Israeli leaders talk increasingly of the need to reconsider or rethink various aspects of the Shamir initiative as it has been developed by Baker. But U.S. officials have made it crystal clear they will be looking for answers to the questions they posed, which were left hanging when Israel's previous government fell three months ago.

"What we're discussing is not new. It's been out there for three months," said the official.

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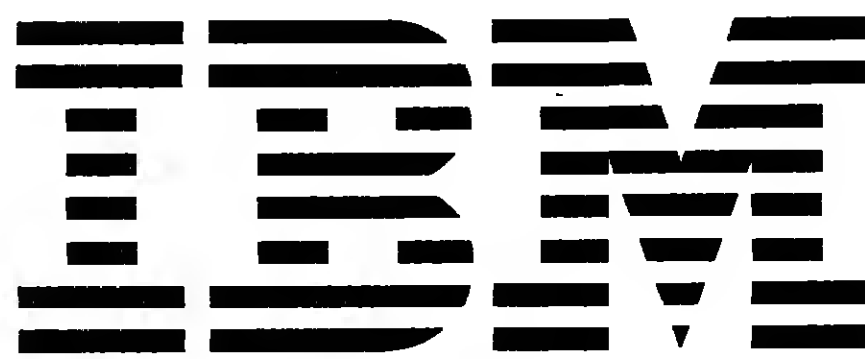
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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Fundamentalist victory in Algeria may hit investment

ALGIERS (R) — The triumph of Muslim fundamentalists in local elections last Tuesday threatens to delay the foreign credits and investment Algeria needs for economic recovery, Western bankers and businessmen said.

Just as Socialist Algeria was opening up to foreign investors, adopting a finance law in March that gives them unprecedented freedom, the sweeping fundamentalist victory has introduced new political risks.

"These were only municipal elections and one should put them in perspective," said Isabelle Lavaut, in charge of the Maghreb for Credit du Nord. "But if a potential investor came to me for advice, I would tell him to wait a few months."

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) captured 55 per cent of town councils and two-thirds of provincial assemblies in an upset victory over the National Liberation Front (FLN), which has ruled unchallenged since independence from France in 1962.

FIS leader Abbasi Madani immediately seized the opportunity to demand dissolution of the FLN-run parliament, not due for re-election until 1992.

For the record, 864 foreign firms taking part in the Algiers International Fair under the

slogan "partnership", the results have struck a cautionary note.

"These elections will not necessarily influence Algerian economic life," said Francois Floutier, head of the giant French delegation of 328 firms. "But there is a situation of reserve and caution."

Algeria spends three-quarters of its annual hard currency revenue of around \$10 billion to service a foreign debt of \$24 billion. There is little left over to import food, spare parts and material to keep factories running.

The March finance law gives foreign firms the right to form wholly-owned Algerian subsidiaries and majority-owned joint ventures with Algerian firms.

French bankers said joint ventures were being discussed between the Algerian state and corporate giant Michelin, Peugeot and Rhone-Poulenc. Middle-sized French firms were studying partnerships with the private sector.

Arab and Western finance institutions are looking at joint investment companies that would take shares in the capital of new Algerian commercial, industrial and real estate firms.

Only last week the Algerian government approved an

agreement with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a U.S. government agency that finances and insures private American investment in developing countries.

But the fundamentalist poll victory is bound to affect the assessment of political risk.

Even more serious is the potential impact on foreign borrowing. Algeria still has to secure financing for more than 80 per cent of its estimated current account deficit this year of around \$1 billion.

It has consistently rejected rescheduling and opted for the gradual replacement of short-term with medium-term debt — a strategy that can only work if banks cooperate.

But Western bankers, already at or near their lending limits for Algeria, have been bombarded with television and magazine images of triumphant Muslim fundamentalists who believe bank interest is sinful.

"There are three options," said one French banker. "A draconian clampdown on imports, fresh new injections of money from foreign banks and governments or rescheduling."

He said it would take strong political pressure from Paris to induce French banks — the biggest creditors — to lend more.

Demand for shares floods ABC

BAHRAIN (R) — Arab Banking Corp B.S.C. (ABC) said Saturday its \$350 million share offering, the biggest ever held in the Middle East, had been 14.2 per cent oversubscribed, mainly by Arab investors.

ABC President Abdullah Saudi told reporters about 85 per cent of the bank's new issue of 25 million shares had been privately placed with firms and individuals in the Arab World.

Ten per cent of the shares, priced at \$14 each, were placed with investors outside the region while just under six per cent were sold to the public on the Bahrain market. The offering began three weeks ago.

"This demonstrates one important thing — that there is liquidity and there is good appetite for investment, especially in the Arab World," Saudi said.

The share offering, which raised ABC's paid-in capital by one third to \$1 billion, was the first by an Arab institution available to foreign investors.

The issue was coordinated by Credit Suisse First Boston Limited, the Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment, in conjunction with Olayan Finance Company, and ABC Investment and Services Company.

Saudi said once the new shares were allotted the bank, which was previously owned equally by the governments of Abu Dhabi, Libya, and Kuwait, would have 3,212 individual and 52 corporate shareholders.

Trading of ABC shares would begin on the Bahrain and Paris stock exchanges within 30 days and subsequently on SEAO International in London, he said.

Saudi did not give a breakdown of the new investors but a spokesman for the Riyadh-based consulting Centre for Finance and Investment, lead manager for the offering in the Arab World, told Reuters 1,000 were from Saudi Arabia alone.

Saudi said 1,074 share applications had come from Gulf nationals buying shares on the Bahrain market, with half of those from investors who took a minimum allocation of 50 shares.

This showed small investors were interested in buying shares, especially as a government share flotation was going on at the same time, he added. Bahrain sold its entire 40 per cent stake in the Bahrain Hotels Company for \$17.3 million.

ABC's \$14 share price was below its book value which stood at \$15.33 at end-1989. The par value is \$10.

Saudi said part of the money from the new share issue would be used to finance a new ABC subsidiary in Europe which would give the bank a foothold there after European Community markets unity in 1992.

The subsidiary, with a paid-in capital of \$250 million, would be set up by the end of 1990, he said.

ABC, with total assets of \$21.73 billion at the end of 1989, transferred its entire 1989 net profit of \$132 million to loan loss provisions.

Last September, it became the first Arab bank to receive an international credit rating for its paper.

Italians attempt to better market image

By Richard Waddington
Reuters

MILAN — Once considered a side show to mainstream European financial action, Italy's stock exchange has in recent months become the continent's hottest bourse.

A daily turnover of around 300 billion lire (\$250 million) on the Milan bourse may still seem small change when compared with the huge business done in London, Frankfurt or even Paris, but stock prices have been rising strongly.

Encouraged by the continuing good performance of the economy and the strength of the lira, foreign investors have been rushing to buy shares.

This foreign interest has been crucial in helping drive up the local MIB stock market index by 10 per cent since the beginning of the year, local stockbrokers say.

"I had an order recently for 10 billion lire (around \$8 million) from a foreign institution which did not mind what I bought. 'Just buy,' they said," Sergio Pigoli of Milan stockbrokers Studio Pastori told Reuters.

"To some extent it is a matter of fashion. At the start of the year it was West Germany, and then it was France where everybody wanted to be. Now it's Milan," he added.

Further testimony to the awakening appetite for Italian stocks comes from the spate of international warrants or options launched by international brokerage houses in recent weeks.

These warrants, the latest of which was announced June 15 by Italy's Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino in conjunction with U.S. financial house Salomon Brothers, give investors the chance to gamble on the continuing strength of the market for a relatively small stake.

Warrants are commonplace in the world's major bourses, but until recently they were a rarity in Italy.

Radical surgery

Nevertheless, despite its newfound popularity, bourse officials and stockbrokers say the Italian market needs radical surgery if it is to survive in a future Europe without financial frontiers with the move to a unified market by 1992.

In fact, the relative size of the Milan bourse belies the importance of Italy's economy, now the third largest in Western Europe

after West Germany and France.

"It is ridiculous. When you think of the importance of the Italian economy and then look at the size of the stock exchange, there is absolutely no relation," said Pigoli.

Although Italians have one of the highest savings rates in the world, putting aside around 22 per cent of their incomes every year, they have traditionally preferred to put their cash into government bonds which they deemed to be safer.

Stockbrokers say the whiff of danger which surrounds the Italian stock market has also deterred small- and medium-sized companies, many of which are family businesses, from seeking a quotation on the exchange.

The Milan market, the most important of Italy's bourses, trades the shares of some 225 companies, only a fifth of the number of Italian firms officials believe could be quoted.

Italian shoes, for example, may be famed internationally for their quality, but there is no shoe manufacturer listed on the exchange. Nor is there any foreign company of any kind quoted.

Stockbrokers say investors and many companies alike have been deterred by the lack of many of the rules and regulations which are applied in other markets to ensure fair trading.

They cite the widespread belief that insider trading, the use for profit of information not made available to the public, is rife on the Italian market.

Dominated by a few

The market is also heavily dominated by a few large corporate players who are in a position to influence the movement of their stocks, they say.

Fiat and the Agnelli family which controls it, for example, account for some 25 per cent of the total value of companies quoted on the Milan exchange.

Together with the state industrial holding company, IRI, industrialist Carlo de Benedetti and Raul Gardini's Ferruzzi group, they control a massive 80 per cent.

Added to this is the fact some 60 per cent of stock trades is conducted off the exchange floor, and so away from the prying eyes of the regulators.

There are also rules to protect the rights of small shareholders to ensure that all stockholders are offered the same price during a takeover bid.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JUNE 18, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A fair day to go after what you want with fine insight and prophetic understanding of the best means by which to show you are ready, willing and able to put lofty principles into execution.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be truly open-minded to whatever arises that can be helpful to you in the days ahead and you have much prophetic insight how best to operate.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Follow your hunches now which can be most accurate in giving you the insight into ways to have far more of worldly goods than you now possess.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get out in public for whatever constructive reason impels you and you can gain considerable progress towards the worldly ambitions you have.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You need to stop putting off and getting right into the activities to which you are committed, especially today when unusually good results follow.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your romantic reactions are warm and magnetic now and you can make a closer bond with the one you love the most by more direct showing affection.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) It is necessary now that you be less analytical about conditions at your home and quickly put into motion some worthwhile changes your family likes.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Good time to make a special point to see and have any desired conversations with relatives, neighbors, close business or personal associates.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be direct today about those material transactions that you are convinced are beneficial and that you intend sometime to put in motion.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have many wonderful inspired imaginative ideas now and don't procrastinate but put them in motion without further delay.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Every so often you are wise to sit back, to analyze and consider what your ideas are, how to further gain them and this is just such a day.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your day to be just as gregarious as you wish to make sure you do get in touch with and make appointments to see the many friends you like.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be more worldly minded now as you get into whatever drive, credit or career interests are important to your reputation and advancement.

Iranian rial plunges

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian rial plunged against the dollar on the black market Sunday despite a new government effort to bring foreign exchange dealings under control.

The dollar was trading for 1,420 rials, up 120 since Friday and a 12 per cent premium over a new importers' rate established Saturday.

Banks in Tehran now sell dollars to importers of non-essential goods for 1,270 rials — much closer to black market rates.

Iran's official exchange rate, 70 rials to the dollar, is used mainly for imports of basic food and medicines. A preferential rate of 800 rials to the dollar remains in force for imports of machinery and raw materials for factories.

The new importers' rate is part of a central bank campaign to break the unofficial foreign exchange market in Tehran and other cities, to which the government in the past turned a blind eye. The rial is also traded in the Gulf, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan and London.

The Central Bank said Tuesday it had issued 115 licences to moneychangers and banned foreign currency dealings by unauthorized individuals.

Ali Pakpour, a London-based money-dealer, told Reuters: "I have sold so many dollars in the past two days that I have no more left. I can't cope with demand. The situation is much worse than before the government introduced its new importers' rate."

Pakpour said he expected the dollar to rise to 1,500 rials in a near future.

"The trend is upwards and the government's decision to arrest unauthorised moneychangers has only led to panic. People with hard cash are hanging on to it in anticipation of higher rates," Pakpour said.

The Central Bank said it was confident of winning the battle against the black market by selling hard currency to mop up excess rials printed to finance the

1980-88 Gulf war against Iraq.

"The government is vigorously pursuing a policy of reducing liquidity in every possible way," Mohammad Ebrahim Tobai, an official of the central bank, told Reuters.

He said the bank aimed to strengthen the rial by taking money out of circulation and investing in projects which could increase domestic productivity.

The government says it has taken two trillion rials out of the economy since President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was elected last July.

Before the ban on moneychangers, up to \$3 million were traded in the bazaars of Tehran and other Iranian cities every day. Most were snapped up by merchants to import goods for which no official provision was made.

Iranians travelling abroad also rely on the black market to supplement a government currency allowance amounting to "little more than petty cash."

presence in the consumer market and deliver oil directly to the consumer." He did not specify where in the Caribbean the offices are.

He said the French firm Entrepote pour les Travaux Petroliers Maritimes (ETPM) has won a \$217.5-million contract for the reconstruction of the Azarad and T jetties on the southern Kharg Island that was devastated by Iraqi air raids during the Gulf war.

He said the project will be completed in 27 months and that the French firm will pay \$12.5 million "in the form of tax" to the ministry of economics and finance.

ETPM initially built the jetties in the early 1970s, under the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi before he was overthrown by the 1979 Islamic revolution.

He said ETPM will work in cooperation with the Iranian company Sadr and the Italian firm Societe Micooperi. He gave no other details.

The South Korean firm Sang Yong, he said, will reconstruct damaged reservoirs on Kharg Island under an \$18 million contract to be implemented in several stages. The first stage, he added, is to be completed in six months.

Aqazadeh also said that oil reserves in the Caspian Sea were "completely independent" of those of the Soviet Union. "So far, 40 fields have been spotted in the area for exploitation in which 100 wells will be drilled," he said.

The oil minister said the first unit at a petrochemical complex under construction at the Imam Khomeini port, on the Gulf coast, will become operational "in the coming months." He said the unit will produce daily one million tons of liquefied petroleum gas.

Iran's production capacity to reach 4.5 million bpd

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said in Tehran Sunday that his country's oil production capacity will rise to 4.5 million barrels a day in two years, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

Speaking at a news conference, Aqazadeh stressed that Iran would adhere to the production quota of 3.14 million barrels a day set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), even though its capacity was larger than that, IRNA reported.

Aqazadeh reported Iran's output capacity in March at 3.3 million barrels a day. He said then that Iran would be able to pump 3.7 million barrels a day by the end of July, and up to four million barrels a day next year.

Iran's oil industry, which produces 90 per cent of its foreign currency revenues, was severely hit during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Industry analysts say that much of its infrastructure is aging and estimate that modernisation to sustain increased output could cost as much as \$8 billion.

Iran and Iraq have criticised other OPEC members for violating production quotas and driving down prices — an issue that costs their flagging economies millions of dollars a day.

On Sunday, Aqazadeh blamed Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for fluctuating oil prices.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted him as saying that Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, was selling its crude to Japan with a discount of \$0.70 a barrel.

Kuwait, he said, advocates keeping oil prices low "to make other sources of energy uneconomical."

Overproduction by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) also had

France wins Kharg repairs contract

NICOSIA (R) — French firm ETPM won a \$217.5 million contract to rebuild war-damaged jetties at Kharg Island off exporter terminal, Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh announced Sunday.

The project will take 27 months and ETPM (Entrepote Gm pour les Travaux Petroliers Maritimes S.A.) will pay Iran \$12.5 million tax on the contract, Aqazadeh told reporters in remarks reported from Tehran by the official news agency IRNA.

ETPM built the facilities, called the Azarad and T jetties, in the 1970s. Iraq's air force raided Kharg Island to cut Iran's economic lifeline during the 1980-88 Gulf war.

The French company will make the repairs in cooperation with the Iranian company Sadr and Italy's Micooperi SpA, the minister said.

been cited as one of the causes behind the chaos on the oil market which had driven prices below OPEC's benchmark price of \$13 per barrel. But Aqazadeh made no accusations against the UAE.

The cartel's 13 member states agreed in May to cut down their collective output by 1.445 million barrels a day to restore the benchmark price. They set the overall production ceiling at 22.086 million barrels a day.

Aqazadeh said Iran has opened representative offices in Rotterdam, Singapore and the Caribbean "in a bid to maintain active

Kuwait reports record oil profit

KUWAIT (AP) — The state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) posted a record profit of 341 million dollars (\$1.2 billion) last year, Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah announced Sunday.

Sabah, who heads the corporation's board, said in his annual report that the total marked a 142 per cent increase, more than 200 million dollars (\$700 million), over the 1988 profits.

The Kuwaiti corporation ranks eighth among the world's oil industry giants.

Sabah said it "realised a capital gain of 15 per cent and an annual average of 20 per cent throughout the nine years of its existence during which the value of its assets has increased fourfold."

The corporation has been expanding its exploration and production operations around the world, including acquiring refineries and downstream projects in Europe.

"The KPC has gained for itself a renowned and influential position in the oil industry worldwide," Sabah said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, June 17, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	117.5	118.2
U.S. dollar	668.0	672.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	434.1	436.7
Pound Sterling	1141.2	1148.0	Dutch guilder	33.3	33.2
Deutschemark	395.4	397.8	Swedish crown	109.5	110.2
Swiss franc	465.8	466.6	Italian lira (for 100)	53.9	54.2
			Belgian franc (for 10)	192.0	193.2

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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau (KfW) in Deutsche marks towards the Water Sector Programme and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract (s) for which this IFB has been issued.

2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from bidders in the Federal Republic of Germany and the land Berlin (eligible bidders) for the following tenders:

No. of Tender	Supply of	Nonrefundable fee in J.D.	Performance security in J.D.
1) 1280-CW	Air compressors, welding machines & accessories	100.	7,500.
2) 1390HP	Horizontal pumps & spare parts	125.	12,500.
3) 1490SP	Submersible pumps & spare parts	250.	25,000.
4) 1590WM	W' water meters & spare parts	300.	50,000.
5) 1690PT	Spare parts	125.	12,500.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the bidding documents at, the office of the Secretary General, Tenders Division, Water Authority, P.O. Box 2412 Amman, Jordan, Tel. 06-680100, Tlx. 22439 WAJ JO, FAX 679143.

4. A complete set of the tender documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee as mentioned in Item 2.

5. All bids must be accompanied by a performance security as mentioned in Item 2, and must be delivered to the office not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Tuesday 14/08/1990.

Eng. Mutazz Belbelsi
Secretary General
Water Authority

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By Harris

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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YUIRPT

I think she misunderstood.

SHE SAID SHE WAS EXPECTING TO BECOME ENGAGED BECAUSE HER BOYFRIEND TOLD HER HE'D GIVE HER THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A ONE

Yesterday's Jumble: OPERA NUDE JAUNTY GADELY
Answer: What Dracula politely said, after enjoying his usual gustatory treats — "FANG YOU"

Argentina to demonstrate potential in critical match against Romania

NAPLES (R) — Argentine captain Diego Maradona will be looking for some signs of World Cup-winning form when the champions take on Romania in their final Group B match Monday.

While Argentina showed more grit and purpose in their 2-0 win over the Soviet Union Wednesday than in their opening loss to Cameroon, their performance was a far cry from those in Mexico where they won the title four years ago.

"We want to show all our potential against Romania," Maradona said.

But his response to a question about Romania's key midfielder George Hagi betrayed the ten-

sion in the Argentine camp — "we have enough problems here without having to think about Hagi."

The Argentines must beat the Romanians to stand a chance of winning Group B and staying in Naples, home of Napoli captain Maradona and focus of their Italian support.

"If we don't win we have no chance (of remaining in Naples)," Maradona said. "Although, if we want to aim higher we should be prepared to go anywhere."

Winning the group would also be rewarded in the second round with a match against a third-place finisher from another group, rather than against one of the

stronger sides. Midfielder Sergio Batista is keen to avoid group winners and runners-up. "A third-placed team struggles through, whereas a team finishing in first place will be raring to go."

Cameroon, who upset Argentina 1-0 in the opening match in Milan and surprised Romania 2-1 in Bari Thursday, need only to draw with the Soviet Union to send Argentina elsewhere.

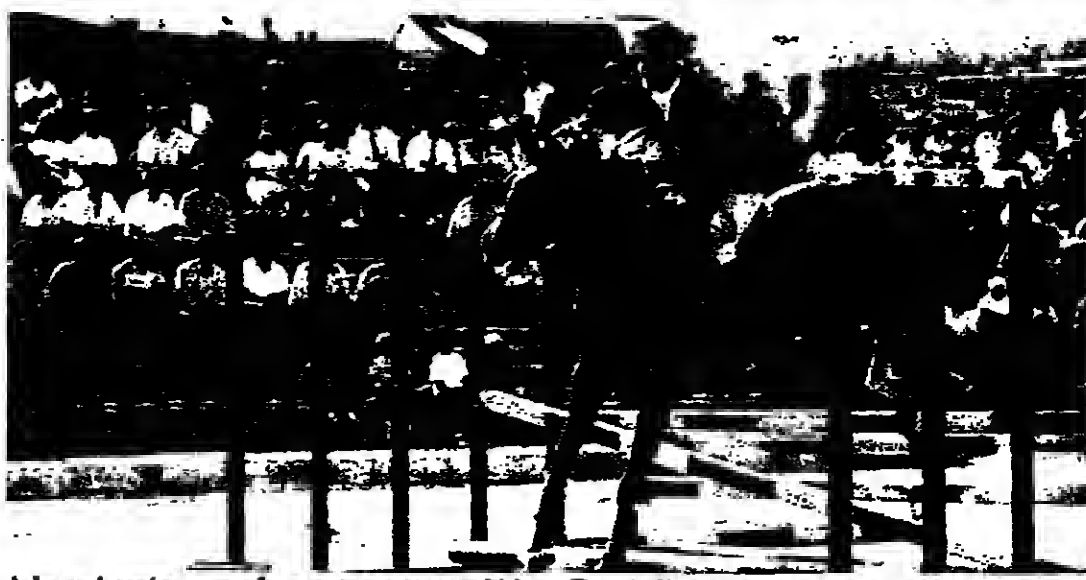
The Russians, who have conceded four goals, need to run up a big score against Cameroon if they are to edge out Argentina or Romania.

Maradona, with a handball the referee missed, and reserve goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea both ensured the Russians failed to score Wednesday.

Goycochea stood in for Nery Pumpido, who fractured his leg in the opening minutes, and responded with some vital saves in both halves.

Coach Carlos Bilardo had hoped Oscar Ruggeri would be fit to return at the back, but the Real Madrid defender has been unable to get over a recurring groin problem.

So the only change expected from the side that started against the Russians, itself a line-up with five changes from the match with Cameroon, is in goal.



A horse-jumping scene from a tournament which was held Sunday at the turf grounds of the Al Hussein Youth City in Amman (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alban)

Jordan holds turf festival

AMMAN (JT) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Royal Turf Federation held a turf festival Sunday at Al Hussein Youth City Turf tract, which was opened Sunday. Prince Hassan took part in a friendly polo match between two teams and led his team to victory.

The festival, which was organized in cooperation with Hotel Jordan Intercontinental, was attended by Minister of Youth Ibrahim Al Ghababsheh, officials and over 3,000 spectators.

Prince Hassan received the winning team's trophy from the assistant chief of staff and then distributed trophies for winners in the festival's various activities, which included jumping show for beginners, jumping show for advanced levels, and

shows by police training college riders.

Four of the eight participants in the beginners jumping show finished the race without mistakes. The winners were Hani Fallaha, Yazid Al Jundi, Tareq Al Jundi and Karim Al Saifi.

Of the nine participants in the advanced level horse jumping show, two were eliminated and the winners were Dana Ammouri, Bader Qardan and Jalal Al Qutub.

In another event, seven competed to jump barriers between 90 to 130 centimetres. Yazid Abu Jaber succeeded in the 130-centimetres jump while Dana Ammouri, Jalal Al Qutub and Meg Abu Hamdan succeeded in crossing the 120-centimetre barrier.

Cameroon to show no mercy to Soviet Union

BARI (R) — Cameroon's Russian manager Valery Nepomniachy will show no mercy to the Soviet Union when the two sides meet in a World Cup Group B match Monday.

Cameroon, ranked outsiders at the start of the tournament, are sure of a place in the second round after beating Argentina 1-0 and Romania 2-1, while the Soviet Union, once one of the most favoured teams, are likely to be eliminated after two defeats.

But Nepomniachy wants Cameroon to win or draw to take first place in the group and avoid the stronger teams in the next stage.

"Of course, my heart will be with the Soviet team but my head will be with Cameroon team," Nepomniachy said.

Nepomniachy, who has added discipline to a naturally talented side, said: "It will be an important game for me... after the Argentina match, I thought we

had more to give. After Romania, I'm convinced we have more to give."

He has no injury worries and he faces a selection problem that would please any manager.

Cameroon did so well against Romania without first choice players Benjamin Massing and Andre Kana Biyik, who were suspended after being sent off against Argentina, that Nepomniachy may find it hard to decide who to leave out.

Defender Jules Onana and forward Emmanuel Maboang slotted in well in their place, although Nepomniachy said the team were not at their best.

He also has to decide whether 38-year-old Roger Milla should play from the start after scoring twice after coming on as a substitute against Romania. But he is likely to keep him on the substitutes' bench to save his legs for the second half.

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JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No 11

Drawing of: June 17, 1990

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Holder of ticket No. 30528 Wins JD 3,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 300 each wins JD 30 30529 30538 30628 31528 40528 30527 30518 30428 39528 20528
Holder of ticket No. 64387 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20 64388 64397 64487 65387 74387 64386 64377 64287 63387 54387
Holder of ticket No. 09441 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD150 each wins JD 15 09442 09451 09541 00441 19441 09440 09431 09341 08441 79441
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Holder of ticket No. 46789 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8 46780 46799 46889 47789 56789 46788 46779 46689 45789 36789
Holder of ticket No. 33606 Wins JD 600	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7 33607 33616 33706 34606 43606 33605 33696 33506 32606 23606

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Ticket numbers 08858 16909 26666	win JD 100 each

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Next Drawing takes place on **July 2, 1990**
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Egypt, Ireland draw goalless

PALERMO (R) — Egypt soaked up an Irish onslaught Sunday to claim a 0-0 draw and leave the four teams in Group F stalemated on two points with identical goal difference.

Ireland set out to deny the Egyptians the space they enjoyed in Tuesday's 1-1 draw with the Dutch European champions and dominated the game from the start with their hard-running style.

But the quality of their crossing was seldom good enough to trouble Hani Ramzi and goalkeeper Ahmad Shubair excelled.

The closest Ireland came to scoring was when Kevin Sheedy sent midfielder Ray Houghton clear on 69 minutes but Shubair sprinted off his line to make a superb smothering save.

Six minutes later left back Steve Staunton rifled a tremendous low shot from 25 metres just the wrong side of Shubair's far post as the Irish continued to pour forward.

The result leaves everything resting on the last two matches when Ireland play the Dutch here and Egypt travel to meet England in Sardinia.

Little was seen of the Egyptians, appearing in their first finals since 1934, as an attacking force with the pacey Hossein Hassan given little support.

Ireland dominated from the start as they sought the win which

would guarantee them a place in the last 16 in their first ever World Cup final appearance.

Liverpool defender Staunton had a powerful shot turned away for a corner by Ramzi on 24 minutes and seven minutes later Irish penalty claims were turned down after Sheedy fell over Ramzi's leg.

Shubair, a target for several European clubs, showed his class with confident saves from a Chris Morris cross and a Tony Casciaro volley.

Ireland, backed by thousands of noisy fans, upped the pace in the second half and Ramzi did well to head a cross from the influential Townsend out from under his own bar after 48 minutes.

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Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

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The Old Man and the Crook
Arabic

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Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571

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Liberian peace talks fail to agree on ceasefire

FREETOWN (R) — Five days of talks between the Liberian government and rebels may only have achieved a brief lull in fighting that has killed hundreds of civilians in the African country, Western diplomats said Sunday.

The talks in Sierra Leone, which ended Saturday, fell far short of agreeing a ceasefire to end the rebellion that has degenerated into a bloody tribal feud.

Representatives of Liberian President Samuel Doe and rebel Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia agreed to meet again in a week.

"We are pleased," Liberian Information Minister Emmanuel Bowier said Saturday after a 10-hour negotiating session mediated by Liberian religious leaders in a U.S. embassy conference centre in Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone.

"We're going back home and we will continue the discussions," he said.

Western diplomats said Doe may have bought time to try to work out a compromise and prevent a rebel attack on the capital, Monrovia. But they said the lull in fighting that coincided with the

start of the talks Tuesday will not last long.

"I don't see how the rebels can afford to wait a week," one diplomat said.

A statement issued at the end of the talks, the first direct contact between the rebels and the government, said each side would exercise self-restraint in the use of military force and public pronouncements during the recess.

The rebels have fought their way to within 30 to 50 kilometres of Monrovia.

Asked if the rebels would refrain from fighting until the next round of talks, chief rebel negotiator Thomas Woewiyu said: "that's not my department."

Taylor, a former member of Doe's government who fled Liberia after he was accused of embezzlement, invaded the West African nation in December with only 150 men and a few rifles. He now controls two thirds of the country and claims to head



Charles Taylor

14,000 armed rebels.

His attacks have paralysed the economy of the country founded by freed American slaves. Imports to the main port at Monrovia have all but ceased and Taylor's forces control most iron mines, rubber plantations and timber concessions.

Ceasefire holds in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil separatist rebels fired sporadic shots at army camps in northeast Sri Lanka but a ceasefire that came into effect Saturday to end six days of fighting was otherwise holding, the military said Sunday.

"There were a few reports of violations by the rebels. Our troops are, however, not involved in offensive operations," a senior military officer said.

The ceasefire was agreed after two days of talks between government negotiator Shani Hammed and leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrilla group in the rebel stronghold of Jaffna in the north. More than 400 people have been killed since last Monday when Tiger separatists launched a spate of fierce attacks on army and police bases in the north and east.

Four shooting incidents have occurred since the ceasefire went into effect at 1230 GMT Saturday, the officer said. One soldier was wounded when rebels fired on an army camp at Mutur in eastern Trincomalee. There were no other reports of casualties.

Despite these incidents, the ceasefire was holding and there were no major violations, the officer said.

The attacks last week by the Tigers, the most powerful Tamil group, caught the government by surprise.

Colombo opened peace talks with the Tigers in May 1989 aimed at persuading them to abandon their 18-year armed struggle for a separate homeland for minority Tamils and accept a political solution based on elections to a regional council.

The Tigers and the government have now agreed steps should be taken to reopen police stations closed by the recent fighting and that all outstanding issues should be resolved through negotiation.

The rebels overran about 20 police stations, abducted more than 800 policemen and seized a large quantity of arms.



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko

Secrecy, security replace festive mood for Japan's coronation

TOKYO (AP) — Secrecy and security are being given top priority as the government prepares to hold its first coronation in more than six decades, a celebration leftist radicals have vowed to crash.

In 1928, tens of thousands of cheering, flag-waving Japanese turned out to join in the fun when the late Emperor Hirohito's coronation. Along with balloons and fireworks, the daylong festival featured drummers, fan dancers, government dignitaries and even an aerial stunt show.

But times have changed. This time there will be no announcement of where to find the two "sacred" paddies used to grow rice that Emperor Akihito will offer to the Gods after his Nov. 12 enthronement. The rice is traditionally planted in early June.

The government will only say that the rice will be grown in the countless paddies of two prefectures (states), Akiha in northern Japan and Oita in the west.

"All we can say is that some of the rice will come from somewhere in Akiha," said prefecture spokesman Masataka Otomo.

"The final word on exactly whose paddy and where won't be made public until after the rice is harvested."

Moving two thrones from western Japan to Tokyo last month for Akihito's coronation became a major tactical operation. Military helicopters and a convoy of disguised police trucks whisked the disassembled, crated thrones to the capital under cover of darkness.

Authorities say the tight security is needed to guard against attacks from leftist radicals, who have vowed to disrupt any ceremonies related to the monarchy.

But a spokesman for the ultra-leftist Chukaku-Ha, or Middle Core Faction, said in an interview that his often violent group "will continue the struggle to crush the coronation."

The spokesman agreed to be interviewed on condition he not be named.

The anti-monarchy radical left represents only a fraction of the population, which for the most part either accepts or supports the imperial household.

During the mystical rice ritual, which will be held after Akihito is formally enthroned, the emperor is believed to commune with the sun goddess and other Shinto deities.

The rite, called the Daijosi or great food offering ritual, will be conducted in two specially built halls on the Tokyo Imperial Palace grounds late at night and continue into the predawn morning.

Though part of imperial coronations for more than 1,000 years, the Daijosi's religious nature has created an intense debate over whether government plans to provide funds for the ritual violate the postwar constitution. The budget for the entire coronation is 8.11 billion yen (\$55.6 million).

The government is reportedly planning to have more than 30,000 police officers provide security for the top-level guests expected to attend the coronation.

About the same number of police helped guard the funeral in February last year for Hirohito, who is now known in Japan by his posthumous name, Emperor Showa.

Bulgarian premier says Socialists will substantially increase lead

SOFIA (R) — Bulgarian Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov said former Communists would substantially increase their lead in Sunday's second round of the country's first free parliamentary elections in more than four decades.

The reformist Lukanov, who helped reshape the image of the Communists after the fall of hard-liner Todor Zhivkov last November, is among 162 candidates in 81 single-member constituencies seeking seats in a new National Assembly.

The main contestants are the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) and Lukanov's Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), the former Communist Party.

"I expect that we will have nearly half the seats that are being contested," Lukanov told reporters after casting his vote in Sofia.

The BSP won 47.15 per cent of the first round vote compared with 36.2 per cent for the UDF,

which is an alliance of 16 opposition groups.

The BSP needs to add 29 seats to the 172 it already has to ensure a majority. The UDF has 107.

The BSP's victory was predicted in pre-election surveys and it is set to become the only former Communist Party in a Warsaw Pact state to win a mandate to rule in a free election.

Asked what would happen if the BSP failed to clear the 50 per cent hurdle, Lukanov replied: "It would not be a tragedy. We would still have a great presence in the National Assembly and it would not be possible to form a government without the participation of the BSP."

He added: "A strong government in Bulgaria is a coalition government or any government which is supported by all the major political forces in parliament. Otherwise you cannot have a strong government in Bulgaria."

UDF leader Zhelyu Zhelev has rejected as political suicide calls to join the BSP in a coalition government.

But Lukanov said he expected a shift in the UDF's attitude after the election was over.

The Moscow-educated economist, one of the more popular BSP politicians, faces a relatively easy challenge from a little known UDF candidate in his constituency of Pleven.

But he is already assured of a place in the 400-seat National Assembly as half the seats are allocated from party lists.

Defence Minister Drobni Dzhorev has a tougher fight from UDF candidate Yordan Vassilev, editor of the opposition newspaper Demotia.

Bulgarian voters, weary after a month of pre-election campaigning marred by opposition allegations of voter intimidation, did not appear to be flocking to polling stations in huge numbers.

Chernobyl pilot in critical condition

SEATTLE (AP) — A Soviet pilot who was a hero of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster was in critical condition with a lung infection.

The pilot, Anatoly Grishchenko, recently underwent a bone marrow transplant for leukemia.

Grishchenko, 53, had been in stable condition after the April 27 transplant. He developed a fever and breathing difficulties late Thursday, and doctors at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre placed him on a respirator early Friday, centre spokeswoman Susan Edmonds said.

Grishchenko was sedated and still on a respirator, and his doctors "really don't feel there will be a recovery in the next 24 hours," Edmonds said Saturday.

While doctors still hoped for improvement, there had been none in the previous 24 hours and that "is usually a sign that things are not going to go well," she said.

If Grishchenko survives the night, doctors will assess his case Sunday, when they likely will decide whether to continue use of the respirator, she said.

Grishchenko's wife, Galina, was at her husband's side, Edmonds said.

Grishchenko's leukemia was detected late last year. He made four flights in five days through hot radioactive gases to dump sand and wet concrete on the Chernobyl nuclear plant.

The plant, about 123 kilometres north of Kiev in the Soviet republic of the Ukraine, exploded and burned on April 26, 1986. At least 31 people died in the disaster.

He underwent the transplant in hopes that healthy marrow could restore normal blood-cell production.

The problem is a hard-to-treat lung infection he had before coming to the Hutchinson Centre, Edmonds said. Doctors had tried

to eliminate it with antibiotics, but the infection continued in his right lung.

After waiting until the transplant appeared successful, doctors Tuesday performed exploratory lung surgery to identify and remove the source of the infection.

The surgery appeared to go well, but Grishchenko's condition began deteriorating late Thursday, Edmonds said.

It was not known if his worsening condition was related to the surgery, she said, adding that he will continue to receive antibiotics.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev praised Grishchenko in a recent letter as a national hero and a "brave man who didn't spare his life in the line of duty."

The letter was delivered while Gorbachev was touring parts of Minnesota and California earlier this month after the summit meeting in Washington, D.C.

Romanian government pledges to play by democratic rules

BUCHAREST (AP) — The government, seeking to contain damage to its image abroad, pledged Sunday to play by democratic rules after earlier attacking coal miners who savagely attacked suspected opponents.

"The government is prepared to assure appropriate measures for freedom of political expression for all with the exception of acts of instigation and of neo-fascist propaganda," said the statement published Sunday.

"It (the government) also demands that those responsible ensure the total freedom of operation of the democratic institutions of the press, radio and television, and... install firmly democratic institutions in our country," the statement said.

The statement was carried in the pro-government Adevarul newspaper.

It contained no specific guarantees to individuals, groups and institutions targeted by the miners.

Tens of thousands of miners descended on Bucharest Thurs-

day after President-elect Ion Iliescu appealed for support in the wake of violent clashes between police and demonstrators seeking to oust him and other former Communists from politics.

Government critics and student leaders say Iliescu and other government leaders want to revive totalitarian rule.

The miners destroyed opposition party offices, shut down publications critical of Iliescu and his National Salvation Front, beat or threatened well-known opposition figures and clubbed Bucharest residents at random. They left Friday as they came, at the behest of Iliescu, who thanked them for their support in a national televised speech Friday.

The government's statement appeared designed primarily to deflect indignation over the role played by Iliescu in the three days of mob rule of the capital.

Western governments and international human rights organisations condemned the violence.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States would withhold all but humanitarian aid, and the European Community postponed a trade and economic cooperation agreement with Romania.

There was no clear indication why Iliescu had called on the miners, but government officials suggested the police had been ill-prepared to handle the demonstrators.

Iliescu said Saturday he was contemplating creation of a National Guard to protect the government and that it would be composed "of clean, loyal, honest people who can act resolutely at exceptional times."

"We know that we can rely on you," Iliescu told the miners Friday before sending them home, saying he had "made note" of some miners' wishes to join the paramilitary organisation.

Among the miners' targets was the headquarters of the National Peasants Party.

East, West Europe join forces on pollution

DUBLIN (R) — East and West Europe have joined forces to clean up the horrific pollution that is killing people, rivers and forests behind what is left of the iron curtain.

"We are talking about the survival and health of our continent," European Community Environment Commissioner Carlo Ripa di Meana said after a historic meeting of environment ministers that would have been unthinkable only months ago.

In reports that shocked their EC colleagues, ministers from seven Central and East European states presented a chilling catalogue of ecological disasters facing them after a 40-year Communist race to industrialise at all costs.

Czechoslovakia revealed that severe air pollution was cutting up to 11 years off the life of its people. Polish Minister Bronislaw Kaminski said high mortality in heavily-industrialised Silesia was "a sad fact."

"Silesia, together with Czechoslovakia and the eastern part of East Germany is the most polluted piece of Europe," he said.

East Germany said toxic waste had been dumped at 15,000 sites around the country and it would take billions of marks to clean it up after unification with West Germany.

The Eastern states, lagging years behind the West in pollution control, agreed to give priority to tackling their pressing problems with nuclear safety and air and water contamination, and to introduce tough environmental standards across the board.

The EC, which called the talks to set up a continent-wide cleanup, pledged to extend cash aid for environmental projects, already granted to Poland and Hungary, to other Eastern states.

Following riots between pro- and anti-government demonstrators in Romania it attached a caveat — aid and technology would flow "so long as these countries carry out the necessary reform process."

"We could not hide our deep and troubled preoccupation," commissioner Ripa said of the Romanians, who pulled out of the meeting at the last minute.

Western ministers were clearly shaken by the scale of the ecological disaster graphically described by their Eastern colleagues.

"The difficulties are so enormous and so widespread, in every single country that it is going to take quite some years to achieve what we would consider a satisfactory solution," Irish Minister Padraig Flynn said.

He added the Eastern states had not come to the talks with a "begging bowl" attitude.

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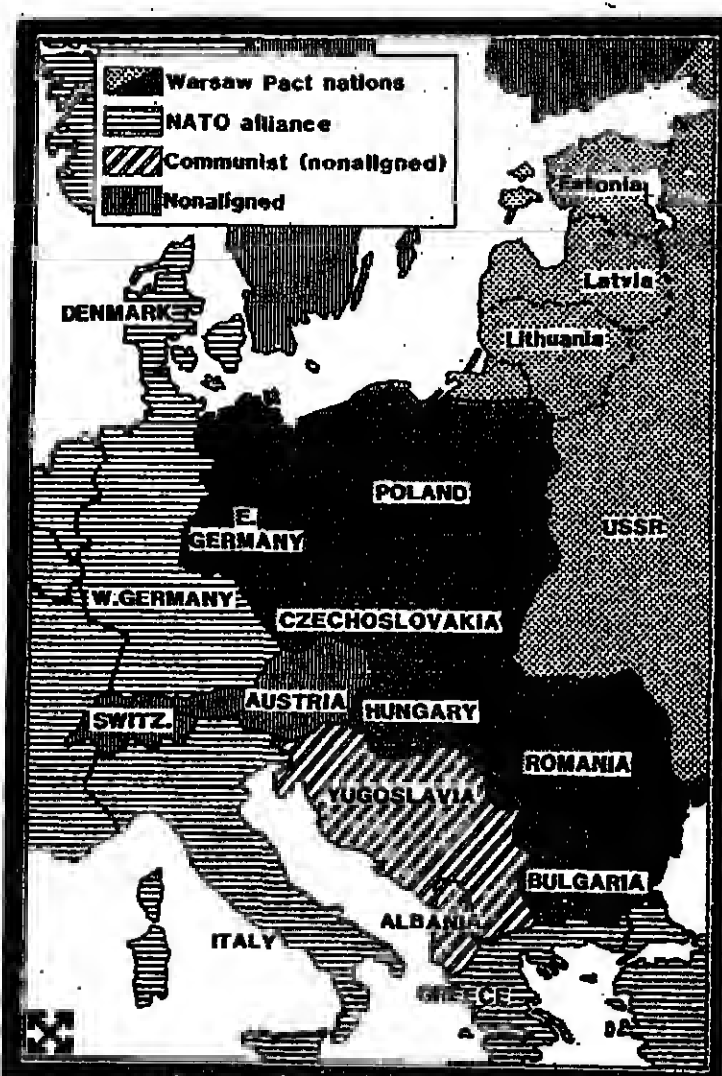
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Democracy to dominate Franco-African summit

PARIS (R) — France rolls out the red carpet this week for its annual get-together with African leaders, many of whom face political and economic crises.

As usual, the Franco-African Summit, opening in the Atlantic resort of La Baule Tuesday, will have no set agenda.

A key question is whether President Francois Mitterrand will pressure his guests, most of whom depend on French aid, to yield to mounting demands for democracy.

With the Chad-Libya conflict, which has dominated past meetings, off centre-stage, political analysts say they expect Mitterrand to use the three-day meeting to state clearly how France intends to help Africa embrace multi-party democracy.

"Mitterrand will certainly make an important statement at La Baule because of events that have happened and what will no doubt happen in Africa in the future," French commentator Philippe Decraene said.

"Many hope Mitterrand will resolve to play boldly in France's role that the role that Mikhail Gorbachev has played in Eastern Europe," the magazine Jeune Afrique said in a special edition on the summit.

Dozens of Paris-based African opposition groups have said they expect Mitterrand to parade France's declared principles of democracy and human rights in support of their campaigns for political freedom.

Chronic economic problems compounded by choking foreign debts have bankrupted many African states, spreading despondency and instability across the continent.

The continuing economic crisis also raises the question of how long France can continue to prop up the economies of African allies linked to Paris in the franc zone.

France has increasingly left economic reform in these countries in the hands of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, whose austerity measures tend to heighten rather than reduce political tension.

Last year's rapid fall of Com-

munist regimes in Eastern Europe triggered copy-cat demands for an end to Africa's plethora of one-party regimes.

Mounting political problems at home will make veteran Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny and Zaire's Mobutu Sese Seko prominent absentees from the summit.

At 84, Houphouet-Boigny is regarded as the doyen of African leaders, but his 30-year rule is under unprecedented challenge with calls for his resignation, which have led to violence.

A month ago he sought French military assistance after army conscripts added to his problems by staging a brief mutiny.

Mobutu pre-empted a similar crisis by lifting a ban on opposition parties, but his opponents say this is a half-hearted measure to head off an aid cut from Zaire's main creditor, the United States.

The one-party regime of Gabonese President Omar Bongo survived its worst crisis last

month after political riots swept the capital Libreville and its oil centre, Porte Gentile.

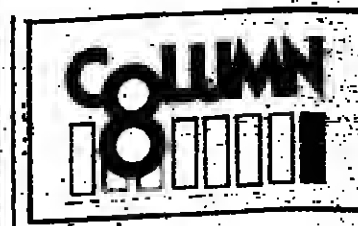
France rushed troops to Gabon under a defence pact with its former colony, a move denounced by critics who accused Mitterrand's Socialist government of acting to shore up a dictator.

But Mitterrand signalled his backing for the democracy campaigns in a recent speech in the Seychelles.

The wind blowing from Europe has begun to sweep Africa. We should not mean over it, we should even rejoice over it," he said.

At a Francophone summit in Dakar, Mitterrand announced a debt relief package for 35 impoverished states which was later backed by leading Western creditor nations.

Medium-income countries like Ivory Coast, not covered by that package, are hoping for similar good news from Mitterrand at La Baule.



UAE player to get Rolle Royce for goal against Germany

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates player who scored his team's only goal in a 5-1 defeat by West Germany in the World Cup Friday will get a Rolle Royce car. UAE newspapers quoted forward Khaled Ismail as saying he had been promised the car by local auto dealer Khalid Al Habtoor. Ismail became a national hero for scoring the goal against one of the strongest teams in the world. "My heart was about to leap out of my ribs when I saw the ball hitting the net. It is the greatest goal in my life and worth the 100 others I have scored," he said.

Queen Elizabeth seeks jobs for her children

LONDON (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth has asked Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to find formal jobs for some of her royal family, the Sunday Express newspaper says. It quoted a member of the queen's Privy Council, an advisory group of elder statesmen, as saying she "firmly believes that it would be helpful if the younger royals could be involved in work based on the principle of service and responsibility."

He said Queen Elizabeth "particularly wants clear-cut roles for her youngest son, Prince Edward, a Royal Marine; drop-out, and the heir, Prince Charles, a pilot. The wife of naval aviator Prince Andrew.

Stolen manuscripts recovered

TURIN (AP) — Italian police maintaining order during the World Cup soccer tournament found a trove of missing medieval documents Saturday following a car search. The police became suspicious after seeing two men near a main piazza exchange boxes used for transporting books. Later searches of cars and houses yielded manuscripts, rolls of parchment, and sheet music dating from the 12th to 16th centuries that had been stolen from a library in the northern Italian city of Fabriano in mid-March. Police arrested Evandro Uzzani, 49, and Raul Andreani, 40, both of Turin.

It takes five Australians to change a light bulb

SYDNEY (R) — Question: How many electricity workers does it take to change a light bulb? Answer: In Australia, five. A New South Wales (NSW) government report released this week tells a woful tale of public-service inefficiency before recent government restructuring of state industries. The report, "Microeconomic Reform: The NSW Government's Achievements," said the state's electricity commission needed five men to change a light bulb in one of its power stations because of union demarcations. "An electrical fitter and his mate were on top of the crane," explained the commission's General Manager Barry Flanagan in the report. "The fitter called to the man driving the crane to move it to the next light. That man driving the crane couldn't accept the call from the tradesman. He had to have a rigger and a mate standing by him so the tradesman could talk to the rigger and the rigger could tell the crane driver." But the NSW state rail authority was the worst offender. The authority employed 26 people in the country town of Narandera. Eleven were train crew, but there were no trains. Three were employed to drive the train crew to and from the non-existent trains, six were station staff and the remaining six were relief staff.

Walesa wants to have fun

GENEVA (R) — Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has said he would rather get drunk and have fun but fate might force him to become president. "Quite simply I wouldn't like to be president, just as I didn't want to be a trade union leader, but fate goes against me many times," he said at a news conference when asked if he would seek to be Poland's president. "Life has passed me by... I would like to have a bit of fun, get a little drunk," he said during the International Labour Organisation's annual meeting.

"I would like to go on and on in the grass, but as chairman of president I cannot."